MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 APRIL 1981

Reaction to Assassination Attempt

According to reports by the media of their respective countries, the following leaders sent messages wishing U.S. President Ronald Reagan a speedy recovery after he was wounded in an assassination attempt on 30 March: Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Turkish head of state Gen Kenan Evren and Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Iranian media have broadcast both reaction by Iranian officials and commentaries on the assassination attempt. Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i told a Tehran radio correspondent that Reagan and "all those who think" like him are "doomed to be destroyed." Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni indicated in a speech to students, broadcast by the radio, that even if Reagan had died there would have been no reason to mourn as Iranian students had done when President John Kennedy was assassinated, because now Iran should not be dependent on foreigners.

Tehran radio's English service broadcast an unattributed commentary linking the assassination attempt to efforts by American "security agencies" to find a pretext to return to the "oppressive atmosphere" that prevailed during the days of the Vietnam war and the Watergate scandal. Tehran radio's Arabic service, on the other hand, broadcast a commentary that viewed the attempt as a reaction to the policies pursued by President Reagan: the reduction of spending on domestic services and increased spending on arms, as well as a foreign policy that is "opposed to human rights," supports "racist states" and accuses world liberation movements of terrorism. Considering these policies, the commentary concluded, "it is no wonder" that an American citizen should try to kill President Reagan.

Egypt

In a journalists' day speech broadcast by Cairo radio, President as-Sadat revealed that Egypt has sold Iraq Egyptian-produced ammunition. As-Sadat stressed that although he considers the Iraqi invasion of Iran to have been mistaken, he is still grateful for Iraqi support for Egypt in the October 1973 war. An agreement has been signed with the Iraqis, he indicated, and they have chosen and purchased what they need. As-Sadat's remarks follow a 28 March report by the London-based newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt sent "vast arms shipments" to Iraq on 22 March and that a second consignment would soon be dispatched. The newspaper said that Oman played an important role in concluding the agreement between the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations. In his remarks President as-Sadat confirmed the role of a "third party." As-Sadat devoted the rest of his speech to a review of the past and present role of the press and announced a 15 May deadline before which Egyptian journalists abroad who have attacked Egypt may return, join the press association and be "safe" from prosecution.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Good Offices Committee--After some members of the Islamic Conference good offices committee met with Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr on 31 March, the committee left Iran, Tehran radio reported. The committee later arrived in Baghdad, INA reported, where Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told its members that if the Arabs are truly honest about their stated desire to defend Palestine, then they should also defend the three Arab islands "usurped" by Iran in 1971 as well as Arab sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab. After lengthy talks with President Husayn and senior Iraqi officials, the committee left Baghdad, another INA report said. Commenting on the good offices committee's visit to Tehran, its spokesman, Habib Chatti, Islamic Conference secretary general, stated that his meetings with President Bani-Sadr were conducted in a frank and clear atmosphere but indicated that difficulties still remain, Tehran radio reported.

Iranians Appoint Investigators--Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i issued a decree, broadcast by Tehran radio, appointing National Guidance Minister 'Abbas Duzduzani "secretary general of an Islamic conference to investigate the crimes committed by Saddam's regime." The decree said that "international figures" will participate in the conference. The radio also broadcast the text of an order by the guidance minister appointing Kamal Gharazi, the head of the Supreme Defense Council Publicity Headquarters, as "executive deputy" to the conference and indicating that his role will be to organize the conference.

Military Situation--According to an Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian bridge in the Marivan region, scoring "direct hits." Tehran radio reported continued sporadic exchanges of fire along all western and southern fronts.

Lebanon-Israel

Citing a UN spokesman, Beirut radio reported that the "border strip militias" shelled the Tyre area, killing a child and wounding 13 other people, most of them children. The radio later reported that another person was killed when the shelling resumed, while the Voice of Palestine radio claimed that the shelling was aimed at Palestinian refugee camps in the Tyre area. According to another Voice of Palestine radio report, in response to Israel's "repeated barbaric" shelling of "innocent civilians" in Lebanon, Palestinian forces launched a rocket attack on the Israeli settlement of Ma'oz Hayyim during the night of 30 March. It claimed that the Israelis suffered heavy losses. A Jerusalem radio report on the attack said that it came from Jordanian territory. The radio said that no one was killed and no damage was caused by the attack.

Jordan

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the National Consultative Council that Israel's plan to construct a canal linking the Mediterranean and Dead Seas is further evidence of Israel's intention to "swallow up" more of the occupied Arab territories through methods that are in "flagrant violation" of international law. In a 30 March statement to the council, broadcast by Amman television, Badran said that the project poses a security threat to Jordan. He added that Jordan will consider any state that helps finance or construct the canal to be guilty of aggression against Jordan. He noted that in response to a request by his country, the Arab League Council issued a statement calling on all states to oppose this "anti-Arab" project.

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has said the Alignment's terms for a peace agreement with Jordan would include demands that Israel maintain early warning stations on the mountain ridges and that West Bank territories evacuated by Israel remain demilitarized. Jordan would be offered a land corridor approximately 15 km wide between its territory and the West Bank, Peres added.

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MEDIATION COMMITTEE HOLDS TALKS IN BAGHDAD

Saddam Husayn States Position

JN312033 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)--The first round of talks between Iraq and the good offices committee began here this evening. President Saddam Husayn and Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure presided.

The committee arrived here this evening on its third visit to Iraq since its formation by the third Islamic Conference summit at the end of January.

INA has learned that in his talk to the committee's head and members, President Saddam Husayn stressed that Iraq does not want to keep any Iranian territory, nor will it allow anyone to keep Iraqi land and waters. He stressed that bargaining over sovereignty is bargaining over honor and that defending sovereignty is real honor. He emphasized that the Iraqis will be at the head of those who will liberate Palestine because right is on their side and they behave accordingly and because their country does not bargain over any of the people's issues. These are the principles that will lead to the liberation of Palestine, he said. President Saddam Husayn said: We are defending Palestine because it is the land of the Palestinians and because it is part of the Arab homeland. If we are truly honest about what we say in defense of Palestine, we should then defend the three Arab islands usurped by Iran in 1971. The one who cannot defend Shatt al-'Arab cannot defend Palestine.

The Iraqi side at the talks comprised 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Na'im Haddad, RCC member and speaker of the National Assembly; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member, deputy prime minister and minister of defense; Sa'dun Ghaydan, RCC member, deputy prime minister and minister of transport and communications; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary and acting chief of the president's office; and Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs.

The talks were attended by the following committee members: Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman, Gambian President Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu, Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Rithaudeen, Senegalese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Moustapha Niasse and Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Baghdad Departure

JN010752 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0732 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)--The Islamic good offices committee left Baghdad this morning following a 1-day visit within the framework of its mission to end the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. The committee chairman and members were accorded an official sendoff lead by President Saddam Husayn and senior Iraqi officials. The talks headed by Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure and President Saddam Husayn ended late last night, lasting 4 and 1/2 hours.

During the last night's talks, President Saddam Husayn told the committee's chairman and members that Iraq does not want to keep any Iranian territory, nor will it allow anyone to keep Iraqi lands and waters.

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 1002 GMT on 1 April adds that the committee "returned to Jidda today at the end of a 3-day tour during which it visited Tehran and Baghdad."]

PLO: NO COMMENT ON REAGAN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

LD311330 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 31 Mar (KUNA)--Officials of the PLO have refused to comment on the report about the assassination attempt against President Reagan. When KUNA asked the press spokesman of the organization to comment on the incident he complained and said, "All Western information media want us to comment on the assassination attempt on Reagan as if we have nothing else to trouble us."

ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL PROTESTS ALLEN'S REMARKS

LD311522 Tunis TAP in English 1335 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Tunis, 31 Mar (TAP)--Mr Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, strongly protested against the remarks of Mr Richard Allen, adviser of the U.S. President for security affairs, qualifying the PLO of "terrorist organization" and justifying Israel's operations in south Lebanon.

Addressing a group of American, European, African and Asian journalists who were visiting the Arab League's Tunis headquarters on Monday on the occasion of the organization's 36th anniversary, Mr Klibi said, regarding these remarks which Mr Richard Allen seems to have made in a statement to an American TV network, that they were disturbing for the Arab world, the Arab League secretary general added:

"Following the statements of other U.S. leading people and close collaborators of President Reagan, such as Mr David Rockefeller according to whom 'the PLO is a force which we have to reckon with'; Mr Robert Neuman, former leader of the transition team, who said on 2 March, 'If we want peace, we should negotiate with those who take up arms'; and Mr Alexander Haig, secretary of state, who specified that there were 'people within the PLO with whom we can discuss in the future'; Mr Richard Allen's remarks are totally inconsistent with these stands which had raised some hopes in the Arab world."

PFLP DELEGATION VISITS KABUL, MEETS DRA LEADERS

For Kabul reportage on the visit to Afghanistan by the PLFP delegation led by Taysir Qubba'ah, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the International Relations Commission, including a report on the signing of a joint party communique and a report on Qubba'ah's 28 March press conference, see the Afghanistan section of the 27 and 31 March South Asia DAILY REPORT.

'ARAFAT SAYS JERUSALEM COMMITTEE TO MEET 24 APR

LD300858 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0840 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Mar (SPA)--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that the Jerusalem Committee, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, will meet in Rabat on 24 April. 'Arafat, who is a member of the committee, said in a statement published in 'UKAZ today, that the PLO will submit a draft plan to the committee containing proposals for implementation of the third Islamic Conference summit on Jerusalem and Palestine.

QATAR

AMIR CABLES WISHES FOR SPEEDY REAGAN RECOVERY

JN311400 Doha QNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Doha, 31 Mar (QNA)--The Qatari amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, has sent a cable of congratulations to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his escape from an assassination attempt against him. The amir expressed, in his own name and on behalf of the Qatari people and government, his denunciation of this attempt and wishes for the U.S. President's speedy recovery.

AMIR RECEIVES BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY 29 MAR

JN290939 Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] Doha, 29 Mar (QNA)--The Qatari amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, today received at his office in Ad-Dawhah Palace British Defense Secretary John Nott. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani, interior minister; 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, information minister in his capacity as director of the amiri office; and Colin Brant, the British ambassador in Doha.

QNA has learned that the two sides reviewed Qatari-British relations in the various fields, the situation in the region and several issues of mutual interest.

The British secretary arrived in Doha yesterday from Muscat on a visit to Qatar as part of his tour of the region's states.

OMAN

SULTAN SENDS WISHES TO REAGAN FOR SPEEDY RECOVERY

JN312143 Doha QNA in Arabic 2115 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Muscat, 31 Mar (QNA)--His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has sent a cable of congratulations to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his escaping the assassination attempt against him yesterday. In his cable the sultan of Oman denounced the assassination attempt and wished the U.S. President a speedy recovery.

INCREASED IN UK MILITARY SUPPORT ANTICIPATED

LD301551 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 28 Mar 81 p 6

[John Bulloch dispatch: "Nott Agrees to Lend Oman More Army Officers"]

[Text] Muscat--The number of British officers serving in Oman is expected to increase substantially as a result of new agreements which have been approved by Mr Nott, defence minister, during his visit to Oman.

The Omani decision to switch from American M60 tanks to British Chieftains means that a new training and maintenance team will be needed for these highly sophisticated armoured vehicles. Mr Nott has agreed that new loan service personnel--men seconded from the British Army--should be sent to Oman.

As it is, the Omani Army is commanded by a British general, and there are 32 other senior officers seconded from Britain. There is an equal number of NCO's on loan from the British Army plus 144 British officers on contract and 99 NCO's.

British officers in the Omar Army outnumber the Omani officers by nine--308 British to 299 Omani. In the Omani Air Force there are 224 British officers out of 350 and about half the NCO's are British. In the navy all the senior officers are British.

In talks with Omani ministers and with Sultan Qabus, the Sandhurst-trained ruler of Oman, Mr Nott has been pressed to provide more training places in Britain to speed up "Omanisation" of the forces.

I understand he has agreed to do every thing possible, but in the meantime Britain is ready to second the officers needed to run the Omani forces and to do nothing to discourage recruitment of contract officers. One reason for this is that Britain is unwilling to see America take her place as Oman's main partner.

President Reagan has earmarked $75 million (more than 33 million pounds) for developing harbour and airport facilities in Oman in return for a promise that the United States will be allowed to stockpile supplies that would be needed if an American force was sent to the Gulf.

British planners accept that the Western alliance would be no worse off is America took Britain's place in Oman. But they believe such a change would rob Britain of her remaining influence in the Gulf, would lead to political difficulties in the Arab world for Oman, and would lose valuable markets. Oman still depands on Britain for experts needed although America has won the contract for the air traffic control system and seemed poised to begin supplying the Omani Army when it sold M60 tanks which were proudly displayed on the last national day.

American storemen are soon taking over at the air base on Masirah Island, which America hopes to make its main base in the area. But Omani officials insist that the American forces will not be allowed a physical presence and will have to seek permission every time a plane lands or a ship calls at an Omani port. Britain is encouraging this attitude because she believes Oman would suffer from being too closely identified with America.

The payment that might have to be made for continued British influence in Oman would be to share the blame if things go wrong. The current British assessment is that this is an acceptable risk.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH GABON

JN311345 Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Muscat, 31 Mar (GNA)--Oman and Gabon have decided to establish diplomatic relations. A statement issued in the capitals of the two countries said that, out of a desire to develop friendly relations between the two countries, the Governments of Oman and Gabon have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the level of ambassador.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE SENDS GET-WELL MESSAGE TO REAGAN

LD312326 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz sent a cable to President Ronald Reagan, which says:

I was deeply disturbed and distressed on hearing reports of the criminal attempt on your life and members of your entourage. While I express my extreme anxiety and my strong condemnation of this ugly act, I thank God for sparing you, and I ask him to grant you a speedy recovery and good health, and shield you from any harm.

[Signed] Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saud

INDONESIAN OIL MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD311208 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Mar (SPA)--Dr Subroto, Indonesia's minister of mining and energy, and current chairman of OPEC, arrived in Riyadh from Kuwait at midday today on an official visit to Saudi Arabia within his current tour of a number of countries in the region. During the visit the Indonesian minister will hold talks with Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, on a number of topics connected with the organization's work and programs.

RIYADH COMMENTARY PREVIEWS HAIG'S MIDEAST TOUR

LD312234 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan said that the coming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Mr Alexander Haig to a number of Mideast countries is but a preliminary step toward crystalizing the new policy of the U.S. administration, which we hope will be on the side of right. It is premature to talk about the success or failure of the U.S. secretary in acquainting himself with the ideas and desires of the leaders and politicians whom he will be meeting during his coming tour in a number of Arab capitals, or whether this acquaintance stems from a serious U.S. desire to open a new page in relations with the Arab countries, the basis of which, as his majesty the king of Jordan said, is to establish right and to return this right to its rightful owners.

Despite the fact that more than 2 months have elapsed since the new U.S. administration came to power, it still remains hesitant in presenting a clear stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, a stand which can form a basis for judging the new U.S. policy in this field, and that is despite the pointers which appeared on the horizon of the U.S. administration and which were a disappointment to the Arab side. But these pointers cannot be regarded as a final stand as long as there has not yet been any official dialogue between the new U.S. administration and the Arab side to give a judgement supporting or opposing Washington's stand toward the Arab Israeli conflict.

All these are but considerations which might not remove the Arabs' apprehension that the U.S. policy will continue to be linked to the past. This is what His Majesty King Husayn expressed when he hoped that the new U.S. administration would embark on a fact-finding course and on crystallizing a sound stand which does not hold this administration a prisoner of past policies and stands. Proceeding from this fact, it is not yet too late for a change to take place in the U.S. attitude toward the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and issue which represents the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as it has been established beyond any doubt that neglecting these rights strongly prevents the reaching of a just and lasting solution. It seems the U.S. administration is willing to get acquainted directly with this issue through the visit of the U.S. secretary of state next month to a number of Arab capitals, forming a starting point for this administration toward an understanding which is more just and fair than it used to be in the past.

UAE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONGRATULATES REAGAN ON ESCAPE

GF011014 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan expressing his great regret at the attempt against his life. The UAE president congratulated the U.S. President for his escape and wished him a speedy recovery.

IRAQI ARMS DEAL, U.S., OMANI COMPLICITY REPORTED

LD310855 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Cairo--Western diplomatic sources in Cairo have revealed important developments in Egyptian-Iraqi relations. These sources have confirmed that Egypt sent vast arms shipments to Iraq 6 days ago to help it in its current conflict with Iran. Although Egyptian sources have maintained strict silence upon being confronted with this information, they have not denied it.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the first consignment of Egyptian arms to Iraq was shipped via the Port of Suez and that the second batch will be shipped soon despite the fact that the diplomatic relations between the two countries have been severed. Iraq has paid for the arms in full.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned that a third Arab country--Oman--played an important active role in the conclusion of the agreement. Omani Foreign Minister Qais Zawawi met with an Iraqi official in Muscat. He then discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig Iraq's desire to acquire arms from Egypt. Haig encouraged Oman and Egypt to conclude such an agreement. Zawawi then came to Cairo 24 February to discuss the final details at a long meeting he held with President Anwar as-Sadat and his deputy and the Omani ambassador to Egypt.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry views this agreement as a major step toward ending Egypt's crisis with the Arab countries. Informed sources, however, emphasize that despite this agreement the Egyptian-Iraqi dispute over the Camp David agreements will continue. An informed source has described this sort of cooperation as "assistance to an Arab neighbor to extinguish a fire at his house," but relations are expected to remain marred by contradictions.

It is reiterated in Cairo that four Iraqi officers who are arms experts are now in Cairo to supervise the shipment of the rest of the arms, which consists of Soviet-made weapons, including medium ammunition, arms and spare parts for various types of SAM missiles.

'ALI COMMENTS ON REAGAN SHOOTING, EUROPEAN TALKS

NC312007 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that he contacted Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ashraf Ghurbal today to inquire after the health of U.S. President Reagan, following the attempt on his life. He added that Egypt has been in contact with its embassy in the United States for reports on the U.S. president's condition. He said he was sorry about the attempt on the U.S. President.

'Ali said that so far there has been no change regarding the date of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Cairo, scheduled to begin on 4 April.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali has also stated that his talks with Gaston Thorn, head of the EEC special committee, dealt with political affairs, the Middle East situation in light of his tour of the area, and economic relations between Egypt and the EEC.

He said the EEC states are willing to help the Arab Republic of Egypt and want to continue the current EEC aid and facilities to Egypt.

He added that the EEC-Egyptian protocol will expire on 31 October and that contacts are underway with the EEC states with the aim of renewing the protocol, which amounts to 170 million pounds. 'Ali said that Egypt's dialogue with the EEC states is continuing.

He said that the Greek foreign minister will pay an official visit to Egypt on 16 April to discuss all political and economic issues of importance to the two countries.

He added that the EEC states have expressed full appreciation for Egypt's role and efforts in the peace process and for Egypt's desire to establish a comprehensive peace. These states, he also said, appreciate the steps initiated by Egypt in the peace process, as well as Egypt's stance on the question of establishing a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The EEC states, 'Ali said, support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the need for a just settlement of the Palestine problem.

REPORTAGE ON 'ALI PRESS COMMENTS, TALKS IN EUROPE

Helsinki Press Conference

NC281900 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] Helsinki, 28 Mar (MENA)--Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that his talks with Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen were most constructive and fruitful. He said that the Finnish side expressed its support of Egypt's viewpoint toward world problems in general and the Palestine question in particular.

Speaking at a press conference he held today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the complete understanding between the Egyptian and the Finnish sides was clear, particularly concerning the difficulty of achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East without solving the Palestine problem. Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that the two sides support and believe that the basis of a strategy for a comprehensive peace in the area was a solution of the Palestine question, self-determination for the Palestinian people and security for all states in the area, including Israel.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the Egyptian and the Finnish sides have also discussed the question of cooperation in the nuclear energy field in the light of Egypt's signing of the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty. He added that Egypt needs two other nuclear stations in addition to the four stations for which two agreements have been signed with France and the United States. He added: We have discussed this subject with the officials in Finland on the basis of cooperation between the two countries in the nuclear stations field.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali stressed that Egypt appreciates Finland's good stands regarding the international problems, including the Middle East problem and its cooperation and interest, as a developed state, with other countries in development.

He said that the Finnish side expressed its appreciation of Egypt's efforts toward peace.

Answering a question about Egypt's relations with the new U.S. administration, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We in Egypt are keen on creating good relations with all world countries. Concerning our relations with the new U.S. administration, we have felt through diplomatic channels that the administration has shown interest in the Middle East problem and the Palestine question. Recently, several statements were made by officials of the new U.S. administration and by Alexander Haig regarding the U.S. policy in the area. It was observed that it proceeds in two directions: 1) to hold contacts with the states in the area to confront any foreign intererence; 2) to consider Camp David a basis for any future solution of the problem. I believe that this is in line with the need of the area.

[Passage indistinct] 'Ali said: We are members of the Arab League and we are committed to the Arab states. Proceeding from this commitment we will assist any state facing a threat or danger.

Noting the Libyan interference in Chad and the presence of large numbers of foreign military men there, he said: Libya has been building a military base about 80 km west of Sudan's border.

Sudan is a sisterly state of Egypt, which has a strategic depth with us. He affirmed that Egypt will not stand idle should the Sudan face a danger from the Libyan forces in Ndjamena.

Referring to the new relations between Egypt and Israel, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: There is a peace treaty between us and we are anxious to preserve it. There is the normalization of relations between the two countries. We are now trying to bring about stability in the area through achieving a just and comprehensive peace which will realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Answering a question regarding the possibility of strategic cooperation between Egypt and Israel, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: I would like to outline and affirm that there will be no strategic coordination between us unless the Palestine problem was solved and we reach a comprehensive and just peace in the area. He noted the need for solidarity in the area and the unification of efforts to confront the foreign danger.

About the states which can presently come together in the area to confront the foreign danger, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Naturally they are the Arab states.

Asked about the states with which a strategic coordination can be made during the coming years, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: After achieving peace, including the rights of the Palestinian people, I believe there will be different relations between the Arab states and Israel.

Regarding the situation in relation to Jordan and its participation in the talks, he said that in view of the arrogant stand in the negotiations, which led to a deadlock, such an Israeli stand will not encourage Jordan or the Palestinians to join the peace efforts. For this reason Jordan has the same stand as the Arab states regarding Camp David.

Concerning the autonomy negotiations in accordance with the Camp David agreements, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said at his press conference in Helsinki that we are facing differences over the reference made in the Camp David agreement regarding the Palestine problem. Therefore, President as-Sadat called for a tripartite summit to review the Camp David agreement. Egypt and the United States do read it properly, but Israel put more obstacles before its implementation, particularly in relation to Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Consequently, obstacles were put in the course of the negotiations, which led to their postponement three times. This led President as-Sadat to address his invitation to a tripartite summit conference. The new U.S. administration then came in and the Israeli elections will come. Therefore, the negotiations seem to be frozen but not dead. We must wait until we can resume the negotiations on the basis of mutual understanding of the interpretation of the Camp David agreements.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: We are waiting until Israel's withdrawal.[as received] We did not sign a separate peace agreement between the two countris. The Palestinian problem is the crux of the issue and has never been separated from it. We are the only country that is defending the Palestinian people's rights and that has sacrificed thousands of martyrs and much money for the sake of the Palestinian cause. We are now fighting peacefully to arrive at a peace that will achieve their legitimate rights. We have an open mind toward other solutions if they are agreeable to the other parties. This is why we have accepted Brezhnev's proposal for an international conference.

Answering another question, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the Camp David agreement is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Camp David agreement is a practical step to implement these two resolutions.

Meanwhile, in a statement to MENA, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that his talks in Finland have shown that there is an agreement in viewpoints on the Palestinian issue--which is the crux of the Middle East problem and the cause of the current tension in the area--and on the mutual relationship between peace in Europe and peace in the Middle East. He added that Finland has expressed its readiness for further cooperation with Egypt in various fields, particularly in the field of the nuclear power stations which Egypt will need in the coming years.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali will leave Helsinki for Brussels tomorrow as part of his current tour of northern European countries.

Comments in Finland

For reportage of Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali's comments on a Mideast settlement and Egypt's nuclear cooperation with Finland, see the Finland section of the 30 Mar Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

Belgian Talks, Comments

NC301902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] Brussels, 30 Mar (MENA)--Egypt and Belgium today held a round of talks in Brussels. The Egyptian side was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the Belgian side was headed by Belgian Foreign Minister Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb.

During the 2-hour session, a comprehensive review was made of current international questions and views were exchanged concerning them. The talks centered on the Middle East situation. Kamal Hasan 'Ali fully explained the various aspects of the situation and answered a number of the Belgian side's questions. The talks also touched upon Europe's role aimed at giving an impetus to the peace efforts, especially since Belgium will be taking over the leadership of the European group in January, 1982.

The Belgian side expressed appreciation and understanding for Egypt's stand and efforts for peace.

Furthermore, a review was made of conditions in Africa and coordination between the two countries aimed at cooperation with the states of the continent in all spheres. Strengthening cooperation between Egypt and Belgium, particularly in the technical and technological sphere, was also discussed.

It has been learned that there was an identity of views between the two sides on various questions.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali extended an invitation to the Belgian minister to visit Egypt; a date will be fixed later.

The Belgian foreign minister said that today's talks with Kamal Hasan 'Ali were important and extremely constructive. He added: We were able to listen to a comprehensive review of the various aspects of the situation in the Middle East area and to get answers to many of the questions that have been holding our attention.

In a statement to the Egyptian correspondents and information delegation accompanying Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the Belgian foreign minister said that Europe attaches great importance to the Middle East issues, as expressed in the principles of the Venice statement. He said that the Netherlands foreign minister is conducting contacts with the parties concerned and that he will visit Egypt on 27 April, preliminary to preparing a report that will be submitted to the European summit in June.

The Belgian foreign minister said that the talks were a good opportunity for us to get to learn a great deal about the situation, particularly since Belgium will assume the leadership of the European group in January, 1982--a decisive period in relation to the peace efforts in the Middle East--and since Belgium's policy on the problem emanates from the European group's policy, which is crystallized in the Venice statement.

The Belgian foreign minister affirmed that the European group's role is aimed at attempting to remove obstacles and to create an atmosphere of understanding among the sides concerned, particularly since the European group has good relations with all parties in the Middle East. We are trying to play a positive role that will contribute to the efforts that are currently being exerted, the foreign minister said.

On the situation in Poland, the Belgian foreign minister said: We hope that the crisis will be resolved internally without any external interference. But should such interference take place, then the matter will be serious and will require consultations among the European group.

Asked whether he discussed with the Egyptian foreign minister the question of the multinational force in the Sinai, Nothomb replied: We discussed this question in general and we received information on it from the Egyptian side. 'Ali told us that the United States has begun contacts with the EEC states on the formation of this force. Nothomb added that nobody has yet asked the EEC to participate in this force and that if it is asked, then this question will be the subject of discussion and study at the European meetings.

Answering a question on the PLO, the Belgian foreign minister said: In pursuance of our policy, the PLO has had an office in Brussels for years.

In answer to another question, he said that the Egyptian Government fully understands the European position. He added that Egypt is a positive state and that it is effective in the peace process, which it initiated.

Regarding the Arab-European dialogue, the Belgian foreign minister said: The discussions now being held between Belgium and Egypt are part of the Arab-European dialogue, which we are eager to maintain with all the Arab states, particularly Egypt, because of its importance in the Arab region.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's coming visit to Egypt, the Belgian foreign minister said that it is an important visit, especially because it will be one of his first visits abroad. He added that the European initiative does not conflict with the previous peace efforts and that Europe's role is to try to help give momentum to these efforts.

The Belgian foreign minister gave a luncheon at noon today in honor of Kamal Hasan 'Ali and his delegation. They exchanged speeches during the banquet. The Egyptian foreign minister affirmed that Egypt appreciates Belgium's attitude toward Egypt's efforts to reach a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East. He said that Belgium and the other European states understand and appreciate the need to give momentum to Egypt's peace efforts. We believe, he added, that Belgium will spare no effort to achieve a comprehensive peace.

'Ali emphasized that there could be no comprehensive peace if Israel does not totally withdraw from all the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and if no just solution is found to the Palestinian problem that would give the Palestinians the right to determine their own future.

'Ali further said: I am happy to note an identity in our views on international problems, particularly on the fact that peace must be based on justice and the need to respect international principles and charters and to condemn foreign interference in the affairs of any state or the occupation of territories by force.

The Belgian foreign minister praised the strong historic relations between Egypt and his country. He also praised the efforts of President as-Sadat and Egypt to establish peace in the Middle East. He pointed out that Belgium was interested in increasing its cooperation with Egypt in all spheres.

GHALI, PORTUGAL'S PEREIRA MEET, SIGN AGREEMENT

NC312212 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)--Egypt and Portugal signed an agreement organizing cooperation between them in the cultural, technical and scientific fields and providing for the exchange of grants and scholarships today. The agreement was signed for Egypt by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and for Portugal by Foreign Minister Dr Andre Goncalves Pereira, who is currently on an official visit to Egypt at Dr Ghali's invitation.

The two ministers also held a session of talks in which they discussed the international situation in general and the Middle East in particular. Dr Ghali explained to his guest Egypt's peace efforts and contacts in this connection.

For his part, the Portuguese minister expressed his government's support of the efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement and a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The two ministers also discussed the strengthening of Egyptian-Portuguese relations and increasing cooperation between them in the political, economic and cultural fields.

The Portuguese foreign minister invited Dr Ghali to visit Portugal. Dr Ghali accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit as soon as possible.

AL-JUMHURIYAH REPORTS COMMUNISTS ARRESTED

NC300641 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2224 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)--The state security intelligence has arrested members of a new communist organization and confiscated letters exchanged between this organization and the Soviet Communist Party as well as other communist parties in Arab and European countries.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, in tomorrow's issue, says that today the supreme state security prosecutor has started investigating the organization's members. The paper says that there are 70 defendants, of whom 38 are members of the National Progressive Grouping Party who stand accused. The paper notes that the organization had used three vehicles to transfer leaflets and organization publications.

The paper points out that among the accused are attorney (Ahmad Nabil), the owner of the ATH-THAQAFAH AL-JADIDAH [publishing] house; (Muhammad Yusuf al-Jundi); (Shahindah Muqallad); (Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri); and the widow of (Zakimurad), the secretary of the former Egyptian Communist Party.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 292

JN311704 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)--Iraqi planes today attacked an enemy bridge in the Marivan region, scoring direct hits. Communique No 292 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that the Iraqi planes returned safely to base. It added that during their operations last night and today the Iraqi forces inflicted on the Persian enemy 53 dead, in addition to destroying various military equipment. The following is the text of the communque:

Communique No 292 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following are the results of our armed forces' activities in the operations sectors last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Three were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Six were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. One vehicle and one excavator were destroyed in the Sumar region.
D. Eight were killed and one infantry position and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Two infantry positions were destroyed in the Mehran region.
F. Two were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Dezful region.
G. Four were killed in the Shush region.
H. Seven were killed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Our units pounded with various weapons enemy troop concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing 23 and destroying 1 infantry position, 1 tank, 1 vehicle carrying troops and 2 ammunition stockpiles. Our forces also sank a boat in the Karun River.
J. Today our planes attacked an enemy bridge in the Marivan region, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.

Thus, overall known enemy losses total 53 dead, 4 infantry positions, 1 tank, 4 vehicles, 1 excavator, 3 ammunition stockpiles and 1 boat.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three vehicles, one field gun and one rocket launcher were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 March 1981

OIL MINISTER LEAVES FOR TALKS IN ROMANIA, ITALY

JN010915 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, left for Bucharest today on the first leg of a tour of Romania and Italy. He said that his talks with Romanian officials would focus on the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of industry and oil. He added that his visit to Romania comes within the framework of developing relations between Iraq and Romania.

The oil minister said that during his visit to Italy he will participate in a seminar on cooperation between OAPEC and countries in southern Europe to be held in the Italian capital next week. He added that his talks with Italian officials would deal with the developing relations between Iraq and Italy.

ANTI-IRAQ FRONT RESOLUTIONS ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES

JN310732 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1530 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] Dear listeners: The Secretariat of the Democratic National and Patriotic Front, comprising our Democratic Party of Kurdistan, the Iraqi Communist Party and the Unified Socialist Party of Kurdistan, held a meeting on 25 and 26 March. The representatives of the three struggling parties attended the meeting.

The Secretariat issued a statement dated 26 March. It reviewed the political situation in Iraq and Kurdistan, giving special attention to the unjust war imposed by the dictator racist regime of Baghdad against the Iranian people. It also discussed the continued racist war against our Kurdish nation.

The statement of the Iraqi Democratic National and Patriotic Front said that the war imposed by the Iraqi regime serves the plans and the conspiracies of imperialism and the reactionary regimes in the region. This war has brought painful disasters to both countries, claiming hundreds of innocent people every day. The war has inflicted great damage on the economy of our country. This war can only be ended by the destruction of fascist regime which is responsible for all the crimes against our people, Arabs and Kurds and other minorities. This honorable task necessitates cooperation, preparation and organization of the nationalist and revolutionary forces and the Iraqi revolution into one unified front.

The Secretariat of the front adopted some important resolutions to improve and escalate political and military work against the dictator regime. The statement said the Secretariat decided:

1. To admit representatives of the three parties from As-Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Irbil, Dahuk and Mosul to the committees of the front;
2. Expand the activities of the peshmerga by dealing heavy blows to the forces of the dictator regime;
3. Define the means of peshmerga dealings with the peasant masses, since the toiling masses are the basic force of the revolution;
4. Defend the peasants' interests and put an end to the activities of the feudalists who infiltrated the ranks of the peshmerga and who oppress the peasants under the pretext of working in the ranks of the revolution;
5. Cooperate with persons who join the ranks of the revolution;
6. Continue to orient the parties of the front toward improving relations with the National Union of Kurdistan in order to pave the way for political and military cooperation with all the forces opposed to the front until conditions are ripe to (?unify) the two fronts.

Dear honorable citizens, those are the most important resolutions of the front's struggling Secretariat adopted at its recent meeting. These resolutions express the depth of the front's cooperation and concern to form an expanded Iraqi front in order to save the country from the evils of the dictator fascist and bourgeois regime, to destroy it and achieve a coalition democratic government elected by the people where the Kurdish people would enjoy real autonomy.

Long live the Iraqi Democratic National and Patriotic Front, comprising our Democratic Party of Kurdistan, the Iraqi Communist Party and the Unified Socialist Party of Kurdistan. Long live the unity of peshmerga rifles for the sake of democracy and social progress. Long live Arab-Kurdish fraternity. Down with the dictator fascist regime. Down with imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

PREMIER CONDEMNS ISRAELI PLAN TO BUILD CANAL

JN311530 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Statement delivered by Prime Minister Mudar Badran at the Jordanian National Consultative Council in Amman on 30 March 1981--videotaped]

[Excerpt] Information obtained from press reports and our embassies' contacts on the canal the Zionist enemy intends to construct from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea shows that the Zionist enemy has two alternative routes for the canal. One of these alternatives is to build this canal from a spot north of the Gaza Strip without passing through the West Bank territories; the second is to build the canal from the occupied Gaza Strip to the Dead Sea.

Construction of either of these two projects has political dimensions and poses a security threat to Jordan in particular and the Arab nation in general. It also threatens all the region's states. This is new confirmation of the Israeli enemy's intention to swallow up more of the occupied Arab territories by undertaking a new aggressive act in flagrant violation of international law. In view of the dangers posed by such a project, Jordan has contacted some states to explain these dangers and the massive dangers that would be inflicted on Jordan, its projects, and its agricultural and industrial investments in the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, as well as its dangers to the whole Arab nation because it constitutes a continuation of the Zionist enemy's settlement policy.

Jordan, backed by all the Arabs, will consider any state or institution that contributes to financing and constructing this project to be committing an aggressive act against the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan because this project violates international laws and charters. Jordan will continue its intensive contacts with various international quarters to expose the dimensions of the project and mobilize international efforts to stop it. As part of these intensive efforts, Jordan asked the 75th session of the Arab League Council, held at the ministerial level in Tunis last week, to issue a statement warning all states and institutions against participating in this hostile project so as to safeguard Arab interests. The Arab League Council unanimously adopted a statement in which it called on all world states to oppose this anti-Arab project--which is an obvious encroachment on the Arab people's rights--in addition to its military and settlement objectives of creating a new situation to boost the policy of Judaism and confiscation of Arab territories, a situation jeopardizing the security of the entire region.

I would like to add for the sake of explanation that the main objective of this Zionist project is to build five nuclear stations on this canal. The Arab nation will take a stand against any state which supplies Israel with these stations because they would pollute our region and the Dead Sea. You are aware that there is large popular opposition in the developed states to the construction of such nuclear stations. I do not rule out possible popular opposition inside the occupied territories by the Jews themselves against the Israeli Government's project.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE CONCLUDES MEETINGS

JN291119 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Amman, 29 Mar (PETRA)--The joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Bolstering the Steadfastness of Our Kinfolk in the Occupied Land concluded its meetings in Amman yesterday. It approved the items on its agenda and adopted the necessary decisions. These decisions are: approval of this year's budget; support for several projects; drawing up bases to support some of the industrial, agricultural and health sectors; and complete support for the industrial sector.

AD-DUSTUR QUESTIONS DETERRENT FORCE'S LEBANON ROLE

JN010819 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon and the Required Deterrence," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: Amid the escalation of military operations in southern Lebanon and the sudden collapse of the security situation in Beirut, the Lebanese tragedy surfaces anew and spreads its dangerous dust over the entire Arab confrontation arena. The interrelationship and timing of these developments point to a new incremental design whose aim is to impede the serious attempts being made by the Lebanese authorities, in cooperation with the UN forces, for the entry of the Lebanese Army into the south to impose legitimacy. Its aim is also to return the specter of civil war to Beirut and other Lebanese areas.

The destructive shelling of towns and villages in southern Lebanon, which has noticeably intensified recently and whose victims have increased, by Israel and the militias in collusion with it reflects the well-known Israeli strategy: enforcing absence of the state's legitimacy, striking against and exhausting the Palestinian presence, obstructing UNIFIL in the execution of its basic mission and limiting its presence to a token force from a world that does not act.

At the other end of the crisis, the situation comes to a head in Beirut and the sound of explosions, rockets and shells reminds the Lebanese that national accord is still remote and that civil war might erupt anew at any moment to gnaw at their bodies, security and country's unity.

This integrated design leads one to wonder about the role of the Syrian deterrent forces and the use of them on Lebanese soil after they have been transformed into a force of occupation and brigandage and into gangs that practice assassination and kidnapping and that incite confusion and chaos among the Lebanese people irrespective of their various political trends and sectarian affiliations.

With the withdrawal of all the other Arab forces from it, this deterrent force has been deprived of its Arab character and has become a purely Syrian force restricted by red and yellow lines in its defense of Lebanon's soil and security and in its practices that serve the objectives and designs of the ruling regime in Damascus. Therefore, duty behooves us now to reconsider this force's presence in Lebanon and to rectify the deviation in its formation and stationing decisions.

If the Lebanese Government is unable to raise this issue, in view of current facts, the Arab nation, particularly those countries which finance this force, should reassess its calculations in isolation from the Syrian regime's outbiddings in order to form a genuine Arab deterrent force that safeguards Lebanon's security, helps it regain its legitimacy in the south, the center and the north and effectively deters Israel and those in collusion with it from continuing to destroy Lebanon and tamper with the security of the entire Arab area.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO GDR--Bucharest, 28 Mar (PETRA)--Hani Tabbarah, Jordanian ambassador to Romania, yesterday presented his credentials to the chairman of the GDR State Council as Jordan's nonresident ambassador to the GDR. [Text] [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Mar 81 JN]

AL-WAZZAN, BUTRUS COMMENT ON CURRENT SITUATION

NC311836 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The presidential palace today witnessed a series of important meetings, foremost of which was the meeting President Ilyas Sarkis held with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The discussion at this meeting dealt with current issues, most important of which was the necessary security steps and the current diplomatic and political preparations for the dispatch of army units to the south in coordination with the UNIFIL command. This political meeting was preceded by a meeting President Sarkis held with Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Housing and Cooperative Minister Salim al-Jahil. Following these meetings, Prime Minister al-Wazzan replied to correspondents' questions:

[Begin recording] [Question] As a matter of course, Mr Prime Minister, a comprehensive assessment was made today of all the contacts which are taking place regarding the situation in the south and inside the country in light of Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib's [the Arab Deterrent Forces' commander] visit to Damascus yesterday. What is the picture you have emerged with?

[Al-Wazzan] We are continuing our contacts and work to put into effect what was agreed upon in Damascus. The information provided by Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib was positive. We also hope to see it put into effect soon. In addition, we discussed foreign affairs, and I leave it to Minister Fu'ad Butrus to talk to you on that subject.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, as the head of Lebanese diplomacy, what is your comment on the attempt on the life of U.S. President Reagan?

[Butrus] His excellency the president of the republic last night sent a cable to the U.S. vice president regarding the attack on President Reagan. The denunciation and condemnation as well as the congratulations on the President's safety contained in the cable express the views of Lebanon--government and people--on such actions, which we can in no way approve of or accept.

[Question] Is there anything new on the diplomatic level in light of the current contacts to carry out the decision to dispatch the Lebanese Army to the south?

[Butrus] All that we can say in this regard is that the contacts and discussions are continuing on the diplomatic and military levels. We hope that this activity will produce positive results in the reasonable future. [end recording]

ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS, IDF OPERATION REPORTED

NC010935 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] This morning at 0945, Israeli warplanes flew over the southern coast--then headed toward Siddon. Air raid sirens were sounded in the camps while antiaircraft fire was directed against the planes.

Early this morning, an Israeli commando force estimated that 300 soldiers infiltrated through the international checkposts into the village of Tulin in the Marj 'Uyun district. the commando force used dynamite in blowing up the houses of ('Abdallah Harb), (Hani Shuqayr) and ('Ali Husayn Hammud).

Reports from Tibnin in the middle sector indicate that ('Ali Hammud) and (Hani Shuqayr) were transferred to the Tibnin hospital for treatment of bullet wounds. The reports also say that the aggressor force abducted (Mustafa Amin Shuqary) and ('Ali Hani Shuqayr) and took them to the occupied territories. Sgt ('Abdu Dhahir) was killed and another soldier was wounded. Both belong to the Lebanese Army.

AL-ASAD CONDEMNS SHOOTING IN CABLE TO REAGAN

JN311633 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] After learning about the attempt on the life of President Ronald Reagan, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to the U.S. President wishing him a full and speedy recovery. The following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency Ronald Reagan, President of the United States: With great regret and denunciation we received the news of the attempt against your person as a result of which you were wounded. I sincerely wish you a full and speedy recovery.

PFLO, BA'TH PARTY DELEGATIONS BEGIN TALKS

JN300712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] The first round of talks between the Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by 'Abd al-Hafiz Nu'man, National Command member and head of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf office, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO] delegation led by Comrade 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Qadi, chairman of the Central Executive Committee, started yesterday at the regional headquarters. During the meeting the two sides exchanged viewpoints on developments in the Arab region in the light of the escalated Zionist onslaught against the Arab homeland and on means to confront this onslaught through the cohesion of all Arab progressive and national forces.

'Abd al-Hafiz explained the stand of the Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria concerning the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary conspiracies against the Arab region represented by the Camp David accords. He also explained the national battle which Syria is waging to consolidate Arab steadfastness against these designs, so as to foil them. 'Abd al-Hafiz explained the national principles defined by the 13th national conference, particularly escalation of the people's struggle, bolstering the militant alliance between Arab forces, and consolidation of their common cooperation and struggle against the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs. The Omani official explained, in particular, the latest developments in Oman, and in more general terms, in the Arab Gulf. He discussed the U.S. imperialist attempts to increase its military presence in the region. He expressed the PFLO's appreciation for the prominent role being played by Syria under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to consolidate Arab steadfastness against imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs. He also expressed the Omani people's support for the Syrian people's struggle against conspiracies and acts of sabotage inside and outside Syria.

AS-SADAT'S STATEMENT ON ARMS TO IRAQ ATTACKED

JN312106 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo--In a speech a short while ago to the Egyptian Journalists Association, Anwar as-Sadat admitted that he has provided Saddam Husayn's regime with weapons and ammunition. He justified this action by saying that the weapons and ammunition were not given free of charge to Iraq. As-Sadat said that an agreement to supply Iraq with weapons was signed in Cairo between representatives of the Iraqi regime and the former defense minister, Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi.

It is well known that the Egyptian regime established an air bridge through Jordan to Saddam Husayn's regime to help Saddam Husayn in his war against the Iranian revolution. Israeli papers and the U.S. television network (?ABC) revealed the establishment of this bridge. It is worth mentioning that Saddam Husayn's regime wishes to establish relations with the United States and with the Camp David parties.

In his remarks As-Sadat as usual waged a campaign of slander against revolutionary Syria and its pan-Arab stands.

PERES, OTHERS REACT TO SHOOTING OF REAGAN

TA311201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that besides the shock at the assassination attempt, there is satisfaction that the President's life has been saved:

[Begin recording] I think that every person in Israel today lives this terrible trauma and prays for President Reagan's speedy recovery. [end recording]

[Announcer] Reacting to the assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan, President Yitzhaq Navon said that the recovery of the President of the United States has an implication on both Israel and the entire world:

[Begin recording] Like all the people of the world--I think--I would like to wish him a speedy recovery. I hope he gets out of it because if the U.S. leader and President is hit, this has serious ramifications that affect not only the United States but also the entire world. First of all, from the human aspect, it is tragic that this thing should happen at such indiscriminate and frequent intervals. It has happened several times that U.S. presidents were either killed or wounded in assassination attempts. However, this is an open and democratic country and it is most probably debating between the need to save its President's life and its desire to make free access to the U.S. President possible. They will probably learn some lesson from these two poles in the direction of enhancing the guard around him. So I believe. At any rate, I really wish him a speedy recovery. This is both personally important and insofar as Israel and all the Free World countries are concerned. [end recording]

Special Prayer

TA311230 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] The chief rabbinate of Israel is shocked by the assassination attempt on President Reagan and has sent him a message from the holy city of Jerusalem wishing him a full and speedy recovery. The rabbinate held a special morning prayer today at the Western Wall for the U.S. President's recovery.

NEGOTIATIONS ON SINAI PATROL FORCE ASSESSED

TA311115 Jerusalem POST in English 31 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[By Robert Rosenberg]

[Excerpts] Agreement between Israel and Egypt appears to be near in the negotiations for a multinational force to patrol Sinai after Israel withdraws in April 1982, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

One source said a message brought yesterday from Cairo by U.S. Assistant Deputy Secretary of State Michael Sterner concerning the possibility of the Sinai force using existing Israeli-built facilities, has encouraged Jerusalem.

But the sources emphasised that even if there is "an agreement in principle," there will be a need for "much more negotiations" before the force is set up.

Sterner's readiness to discuss the possibility of the Sinai facilities being used by the multinational force was seen here as a strong indication of a new flexibility by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat on the issue.

Neither Israel nor American authorities were willing last night to make any official statements about the negotiations.

Sterner yesterday briefed a Foreign Ministry team led by Director-General David Kimche, which included Israeli members of the joint Israel-Egypt Military Committee, on what the American had learned in Cairo.

Egypt is also pressing for at least an attempt to involve the UN in the peacekeeping force in some manner, as specified in the Camp David accords, but the U.S. and Israel believe that the Soviet Union would prevent the UN from participating, sources here said.

While Sterner has apparently overcome earlier disagreement between Cairo and Jerusalem on the size of the multinational force which U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has said should be "strong and effective," details on the composition and stationing of the force still require "a lot of work," said sources.

U.S. participation, the cost and who will pay it, which facilities will be used, the other countries that will join, and any role for Israeli and Egyptian troops are all on the agenda.

The U.S. is ready, according to some reports, to supply up to 1,000 troops to the force. The U.S. readiness has been interpreted as part of a long-range strategy to establish American bases in the region.

Sterner, however, quashed that speculation, saying at the airport that "we're not talking about American bases or any other kinds of bases. This is a peacekeeping force."

Sterner returns to Cairo tomorrow to join Haig's Middle East swing. Haig is thought to be seeking Arab agreement to the beefing up of the American posture in the region.

POLL INDICATES INCREASED SUPPORT FOR LIKUD

TA311104 Jerusalem POST in English 31 Mar 81 p 1

[By political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv--A clear swing back to the Likud was evident in the latest Jerusalem POST poll, compared to results of surveys taken in January and February. The Likud appears to have benefited at the expense of labor, floating voters and most recently, those previously inclined to back Moshe Dayan.

Labor still holds the lead as the largest single party, but its support has dropped sharply from earlier polls, and remains the same as it was in February. Then, large numbers of voters seemed to abandon the Alignment for Dayan, but many of these have now apparently turned to the Likud.

The latest survey, conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Research Centre among 1,250 adults, was held throughout the country during the past week, and the forecast was processed yesterday.

The floating vote has shrunk since the October-November poll, which recorded 32.5 percent undecided, 9 percent who said they won't vote and 5.1 percent who wouldn't say. In January, the figures were 25.9, 7.4 and 3.4 percent and in the latest poll, 23.7 and 4 percent.

With the floating vote not counted, following are the number of MK's who would be elected by the various parties, according to the last three polls:

Number of MK's

Party	MAR	FEB	JAN
Likud	33	20	20
Aglinment	45	45	58
NRP	9	10	11
Aguda Bloc	5	6	5
Dayan	9	19	--
Shinuy	2	1	2
Tehiya	3	3	4
Others	14	16	20

UNIFIL COMMANDER INTERVIEWED ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA280951 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] The new UNIFIL commander in southern Lebanon, Gen William Callaghan, is causing Israel concern. His aggressive statements, his attitude toward Israel's intervention in southern Lebanon and Major Haddad's activities and his somewhat free interpretation of his mandate in southern Lebanon have aroused the chief of staff to publicly warn him that Israel will forcefully prevent the penetration of Lebanese Army units into the south. The personality of Callaghan, who describes himself as a professional army man, his positions and opinions are at the focus of the new tension in southern Lebanon. At the beginning of this week Alan Ben-'Ami of our English department spoke with him, and from the conversation we can try to learn something about Callaghan's personality and his views on his task in Lebanon:

[Begin recording--in English] [Callaghan] UNIFIL has a mandate to help to restore law and order and support the Lebanese Government to establish its authority in southern Lebanon. That's a well-known mandate and a much-quoted one and, indeed, I think, often, a much-misquoted one.

[Ben-'Ami] Why do you say misquoted?

[Answer] Because people support a mandate, on the one side, and then they go against it, on the other side, you know, when it does suit them. [end recording] [studio commentator translates above into Hebrew]

[Begin recording--in English] [Callaghan] To restore normalization, I think, within the area of operations, that's phase one, and that's going on very, very well indeed. I must say, and, you know, you can see this and you can feel it right throughout the area and I think it's reflected in--particularly at this time of year, now, when southern Lebanon looks its best, with the almong in blossom, wheat up, people planting the tobacco crop, marketing last year's crop, repairing the roads, building new houses--a million things. Do you know something, that, because of the security provided by UNIFIL, that it costs twice as much....[end recording]

[Studio commentator translates above into Hebrew and continues] Do you know, he said, that all this is because of the security provided by UNIFIL. For example, he said, the cost of renting an orange grove inside UNIFIL territory is twice as much as that in other areas. All this is because of the security UNIFIL provides to the inhabitants. In the conversation, Callaghan showed great flexibility, much greater than that he reveals in interviews he grants foreign journalists; perhaps because he wants to give the Israeli listener a feeling of being soothed.

[Begin recording][in English] [Callaghan] I'll meet with anybody, any time, where there's a prospect of improving peaceful progress but certainly not under threats of any kind. Together, the mandate should be implemented.

[Ben-'Ami] Without disbanding the south Lebanese militia?

[Answer] I'm sure. I'm sure there's a modus operandi, or there's an arrangement that can be come to. [End recording]

[Studio commentator translates above into Hebrew and continues] On the possibility of terrorist infiltration by way of UNIFIL zones, he said the following:

[Begin Callaghan recording--in English] People can move freely in southern Lebanon if they're not in uniform, if they're identifiable and don't have arms. There's the basis. You know, then you may pick up arms somewhere else. [end recording]

[Studio commentator translates above into Hebrew and continues] UNIFIL, in Callaghan's opinion, is doing enough to prevent the transfer of arms via the lines and he maintains patrols in all the wadis and wherever possible. He said the Lebanese Army has a right to be in southern Lebanon:

[Begin Callaghan recording--in English] These people have a right to be in south Lebanon, you know, to be on southern Lebanese territory, you know. They're entitled to be deployed anywhere in south Lebanon. [end recording]

[Studio commentator translates above into Hebrew and continues] And he calms us: UNIFIL has a commitment to Israel's safety and the prevention of terrorist infiltration. We are working day and night to prevent such attempts of infiltration.

[Begin Callaghan recording--in English] The UNIFIL is committed to the security of Israel and stopping infiltration. You know, it is working day and night to stop infiltration and attempted infiltration. You know, UNIFIL are most cooperative and understanding and progressive, so they'll cooperate with anybody and, from my own personal point of view, I'm a wonderful cooperator, actually, you know. But I don't like people holding a big stick over my head and saying: You'll cooperate or else! You know, you can't work that way. [end recording]

[Studio commentator translates above into Hebrew and continues] Those are the views of Gen William Callaghan, the new UNIFIL commander.

DETAILS ON GAZA STRIP TERRORIST ACTIVITY REPORTED

TA292026 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1945 GMT 29 Mar 81

[By correspondent David Appel]

[Excerpts] Gaza, 29 Mar--With the lifting of the news blackout on the affair of the liquidation of the Fatah commander in the Gaza Strip, additional details have now been made available for publication on his modus operandi and on terrorist activity in the Gaza Strip since the signing of the peace agreement with Egypt. As will be recalled, it was reported on 27 March that some time ago the commander of the Gaza Fatah terrorist squad, Rafiq Silmi, was shot and killed in close combat with the security forces, but that this had been kept secret until now.

In connection with this report, the ITIM correspondent in the Gaza Strip reports that the degree of terrorist activity, which hit its peak in 1970, decreased to virtually nil in the period preceding the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt. Whereas in 1970 some 554 terrorist acts were recorded--including firing from ambushes, the planting of bombs, the throwing of grenades and personal attacks on local residents and on IDF personnel, with the number of wanted persons numbering 300--terrorist activity decreased practically to the zero point in the period preceding the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt.

Since then, however, there has been a rise in attacks, although to a lesser extent. In 1978, prior to the Camp David accords, only 14 terrorist attacks were recorded in the entire Gaza Strip, or about 1 per month. Within a year this had been doubled, and during 1980 there were 49 attacks. Parallel to this, there was a far-reaching improvement in the economic situation of the Gaza Strip's residents.

It emerges that the peace boundary with Egypt, which about 150,000 persons crossed--in either direction--in 1 year, was found to be convenient for smuggling combat material and personnel. Fatah members discovered this and through Egypt smuggled in persons who were charged with organizing squads and carrying out attacks. Their aim was to disrupt normalization and the autonomy talks. However, unlike the situation that prevailed in the early 1970's, no command posts were set up this time, nor were the terrorists successful in trying to create stockpiles of explosives and weapons. On the other hand, the persons who were smuggled into the Gaza Strip were found to be particularly aggressive and prepared to stick to their assignments, following their training in Cuba, the Soviet Union and in the terrorists' camps.

The security forces attribute to Silmi the planting of a bomb in Bat Yam in January 1980 and in Rehovot in February of that year. They also attribute to him, along with others, the throwing of genades and bombs at a car belonging to Kibbutz Kissufim. Two Israelis were killed in that operation. When the security forces managed to apprehend his fellow squad members, he fled to Al-'Arish, returning in October 1980. This time he set out on a series of murders, his first victim being 'Ali (Murad), who was shot at close range on 26 October. The number of murders eventually reached 12 and it is thought that Silmi was personally connected with most of them. He is also thought to be directly linked to about another 10 cases of grenade-throwing and the planting of bombs.

The ITIM correspondent in the Gaza Strip adds that a precise examination of the victims' identity reinforces the suspicion that there is a strong tie between the terrorist organizations and the Arab and Israeli underworlds. This is because most of the murdered persons were connected in one way or another with drug dealing or with the owners of clubs and restaurants. Except for two murders which had a political background and whose victims were local leaders, all the other murders had different backgrounds.

One of the two political murders was that of Imam Hashim (Huzandar), who was knifed to death about 2 years ago near his Gaza home. This occurred after he had dared to come out publicly in favor of As-Sadat's peace initiative, even before the signing of the Camp David accords. (Huzandar) had good and close ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and the terrorist organizations. The second political murder was that of Muhammad Abu-Warda, who was assassinated on 18 November 1980 by Rafiq Silmi.

The security forces imposed a total blackout on the news of the commander's death for some time. It is estimated that Silmi managed to recruit for direct or auxiliary activity about 20 Gaza Strip residents, some of who have been apprehended and sentenced. Attacks have continued in the past few days; active remnants apparentlyare still at large in the area.

ALGERIA

APS ASSAILS MOROCCAN KING'S 'MACHIAVELLIANISM'

LD301247 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 25 Mar 81 p 1

[APS article: "King Hassan II's Relations With Zionism and Imperialism"]

[Text] Following Mauritania last week, the Moroccan king is again hitting the headlines worldwide with another initiative equally indicative of his role within world imperialist strategy, this time affecting Palestine.

Not one whit discouraged by the failure of his attack on Mauritania, the king has tried again and in fact found another theater for his indiscriminate diversionary policy, having met in Marrakesh with Israeli Labor Party Leader Shim'on Peres. A "denial" from Rabat, followed by a confirmation from Tel Aviv and unrest within the Zionist Cabinet itself have amply sufficed to reveal--if not confirm--Hassan II's latest option.

But what in fact is the Moroccan king's aim and intention in such enterprises, which are dangerous for the Arab nation as a whole? There are three immediate answers to this question:

1. It has always been acknowledged--both in the past and now--that imperialist strategy has always resorted to intermediaries for its realization. It clearly aims to stifle the Arab peoples' legitimate aspirations and to consolidate its bridgehead in the Middle East since 1948, Israel. Apart from that, in the light of the conflict in the Western Sahara since 1975, there is also a new dimension aimed at creating "artificial abscesses" specifically to contain the Arabs' aspirations, which are entirely centered on Palestine, Jerusalem and their liberation.

Entirely consistently with the tactic pushed, the exacerbation of the Arab nation's internal conflicts resulted in the present Cairo regime's defeatist policy. But since, contrary to Washington's prior calculations, the Camp David agreements crystallized and strengthened the Arabs' resolve, it became necessary to spur on the treacherous regimes to a better implementation of the plan, with inevitable amendments so as to better realize their betrayal in exchange for shows of "generosity" by sending supplies of sophisticated weapons or by supplying, through the World Bank, subsidies to conceal the domestic economic crises of the intermediary countries. This is what is happening now with Morocco.

2. Having thus defined the roles, the king of Morocco was entrusted with the important task of establishing preliminary and exploratory contacts with both Israeli hawks and doves. An initial meeting with President of the World Jewish Congress Nahum Goldman, followed by meetings with Moshe Dayan and Yitzak Rabin, opened the way to As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem and to the subsequent conspiracy against the Arab nation.

So by acting as the loyal servant of a strategy with very grave consequences for the Arab cause, and first and foremost the Palestinian cause, Hassan II has, despite the usual precautions to prevent leaks, become the instigator of past and--in the case of the meeting with Shim'on Peres--future conspiracies against the Arab nation's sacrosanct interests in the Middle East. And by trying in this way to get into favor with his Western protectors, he is at the same time trying to divert his people's attention from the real problems of the deteriorating situation in the Sahara and the consequent three-fold defeats on the political, diplomatic and military planes.

3. To try to conceal the undertakings performed at Washington's prompting, the Moroccan king adopts the guise of "defender of the Palestinian cause" to the extent of playing the apostle of the struggle against the Zionist regime for the liberation of the holy city of Jerusalem. This extreme of Machiavellianism could not now—now that the facts are again publicly known--elude the vigilance of the Arab peoples or their legitimate inquiry into the Moroccan king's aims and the people supporting him by their silence.

At this stage in the betrayal is it possible for this same king to enjoy the Arab nation's trust in the defense of Jerusalem?

At a time, when the Arab League is at present meeting in Tunis, these three observations reveal the gravity of a diversionary undertaking at the service of imperialism and Zionism. It requires the condemnation, in full conscience and responsibility, of maneuvers whose prime objective is to divert, if not split, the Arab ranks at this crucial stage--characterized by repeated Zionist aggressions against the Palestinians and Libyans. What then will be the Arab masses' response to the "peace of the graveyard" that is on the way to being implemented, with the direct support and complicity of Rabat and Cairo, amid an embarrassing and no less serious silence? A big question.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CPSU DELEGATION'S VISIT

For the joint communique on the 22-26 March visit to Algeria of a CPSU delegation led by Sh. R. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, published in Moscow PRAVDA on 28 March, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 1 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

LIBYA

ARAB CONGRESS ADVOCATES ACTION AGAINST HAIG TOUR

LD312150 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Mar (JANA)--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress this evening issued the following appeal to the Arab masses, regarding the intended visit by the U.S. secretary of state:

Everyone knows the role which American imperialism plays in the Arab world and the Middle East, particularly since the Camp David agreements, which humiliated Egypt and made its great people, history and struggle subject to American imperialism and international Zionism. These forces use Egypt's potential in the service of conspiracies opposed to the Arabs and to peace-loving and justice-loving people throughout the world.

The dangers of American policies in the Arab world have increased since Reagan took power, because of the hostile policies he declared against the Arab nation and its national and progressive forces.

Thus, the visit by the U.S. secretary of state to Egypt and the Arab region, which begins 14 April, marks the beginning of implementing anti-Arab policies. The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress therefore draws the attention of the Arab masses and their national, democratic and progressive forces to the importance of expressing their anger and rejection of American policy--in any way they see fit. The Secretariat hopes these forces will act swiftly against this visit, both on the policial level and on the level of information and the media, and that they will condemn imperialist U.S. policy and its aggressive plots.

The honor and the freedom of the Arabs, bought at a high price by generations of our people--indeed our independence and our very existence--are in danger of being destroyed. Let us therefore arise to defend ourselves.

[Signed] The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress

COMMENTARY EXAMINES U.S. ARMS SUPPLY TO MOROCCO

LD311954 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. declaration made through the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Middle East and South Asian affairs, Morris Draper, with regard to the unconditional resumption of the supply of U.S. arms and ammunition to the Moroccan regime, came after a period of U.S. hesitation.

I wonder what the reasons are which made the U.S. administration resume the supply of arms to the Moroccan regime after a period of partial, if not total, suspension?

The reply to this question demonstrates the role of the Moroccan regime as the first and most important factor in the U.S. administration's decision to resume supplies of war equipment, within the framework of the position which this regime occupies in U.S. policy in the Arab region in particular and in Africa in general.

In 1960, a treaty was signed between Morocco and the United States on arms supplies. The United States made it a condition that the Moroccan regime should not use those arms outside its internationally recognized borders. But this last phase was amended to read "outside its borders." This implies agreement between the United States and the Rabat regime to use the U.S. arms in military tasks outside Morocco. This demonstrates in the first place the threat not only to Western Sahara but also to neighboring countries.

A study of the quantity and kind of the developed arms which the United States is to give the Moroccan regime--bombers, missile launchers, guided missiles, reconnaissance aircraft and modern tanks--reveals the fact that the volume of the Moroccan action is not confined only to neighboring countries but it goes beyond this to link up with racist South Africa, which in its turn is getting the same arms from the United States within the framework of South Africa's colonialist role in Africa in implementing the colonialist plans.

The fact is that the U.S. colonialists look toward Africa, and its reliance on racist or reactionary support falls within the framework of developments in recent years, in the wake of the severe blow that U.S. interests received in Iran following the overthrow of the shah and the triumph of the revolution.

The U.S. decision to resume arms supplies to Morocco, in response to the king's request, is in line with the motives of the Moroccan regime, which has failed in the Saharan war and suffered frequent defeats at the hands of Polisario. Thus, the U.S. decision, according to these facts, underlines that U.S. policy seeks to spread its domination over the world.

JALLUD, NICARAGUA'S BORGE EXCHANGE DINNER SPEECHES

LD271522 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud has stressed that the victory of the people of Nicaragua under the leadership of the Sandinista Front was no ordinary victory against American colonialism and the reactionary and bourgeois forces.

Staff Major Jallud, speaking at a dinner banquet held yesterday in honor of Tomas Borge, member of the National Command of the Sandinista Front and Nicaraguan interior minister, said that this victory is a victory for the people's revolution and an end to the revolution of the few and the elite and a start of new phase, that is, the phase of the people's revolution, which has become the only path for the salvation of the peoples. He added that the victory of the people's revolution in Libya and the victory of the people's revolution in Iran and in Nicaragua confirm that the peoples have turned to the path of people's revolution.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud stressed that the Great Fatih Revolution is allied with the people's revolution in Nicaragua against colonial plots. He said: The people of Nicaragua continued along this path and were able to snatch victory after a lengthy struggle.

Staff Major Jallud stressed that the talks confirmed the coincidence of the viewpoints of both revolutions for their faith in people's authority, the armed people, partners and not hired people, and that home is for the person who lives in it, and he said that he believes that the happiness of man can be achieved only by lifting all pressures off him. He said: We are certain that the people in Nicaragua are capable of defeating the enemies, of achieving victory and of continuing with the people's revolution.

Mr Tomas Borge, member of the Sandinista National Command and Nicaraguan interior minister, for his part praised the extraordinary efforts of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamariyah in supporting liberation movements. He stressed that these efforts are a model of revolutionary work. He confirmed that there is coincidence in the viewpoints of the two revolutions. He stressed the solidarity of the people of Nicaragua with all peoples struggling for their freedom and independence and the readiness of the people of Nicaragua to fight against all enemies. He also stressed the solidarity of the people of Nicaragua with the Libyan Arab people against all colonial challenges. He also confirmed the readiness of the people of Nicaragua to fight against American colonialism in Latin America. He explained that the people of Nicaragua will never surrender to the American threat.

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT END OF BORGE VISIT

LD010330 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Joint statement issued at the conclusion of the 25-31 March visit to Libya of Nicaraguan interior minister Tomas Borge]

[Text] At the invitation of the revolutionary command of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ], Tomas Borge, member of the National Command of the Sandinist Front and minister of interior of Nicaragua, paid an official visit to the SPLAJ from 25 to 31 March 1981, heading a delegation comprised of the minister of mining and energy, the governor of the Bank of Nicaragua, the deputy minister of planning and investments, the deputy minister of agricultural planning, the deputy minister of the interior, and representatives of Nicaraguan republican and cultural organizations.

The guest and those accompanying him were warmly welcomed in the Jamahiriyah by Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, commander of the militarization of the towns and member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, and members of the General People's Committee. The guest was received by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Fatih Revolution. He had meetings with Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi. The guest conveyed to the brother leader the appreciation of the people of Nicaragua and of the leadership of the Sandinist National Front to the people of the SPLAJ for the assistance they gave to the people of Nicaragua in their struggle to overthrow the fascist ruling regime and for their stand with them in their efforts to build their country. Tomas Borge stressed the similarities of the two popular revolutions and of their joint concepts and principles in confronting colonialism and imperialism.

He stressed that the solutions included in the Third World theory, as given in the Green Book, are valuable guidelines for the solution of the chronic fundamental problems of humanity. The Third World theory, which heralds the final freedom of humanity and the emergence of the people's authority, is in agreement with the aims of the Nicaraguan popular revolution, which believes in the precept "Authority, resources and weapons must be in the hands of the people." He also stressed that the Green Book includes fundamental principles, the understanding of which is considered important to the future of the march of progress of the Nicaraguan popular revolution. He also supported the precept "freedom is one and is indivisible" and noted that the popular revolutions in the Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua recognize that the freedom of their peoples is incomplete as long as there are other peoples suffering from colonialism, domination and control over their resources.

The guest expressed his pleasure at visiting the SPLAJ while its people were celebrating the anniversary of the expulsion of the British colonial forces from the homeland.

Talks took place between the Arab Libyan and Nicaraguan sides in a spirit of fraternity and friendship. They exchanged views on the situations in the Arab homeland, Central America, the Caribbean and Africa and on the international situation in general. The stands of both countries are the same regarding the present problems and issues and are in accordance with the previous joint statements issued in Managua and Tripoli.

The Libyan Arab side for its part once again stressed its appreciation of and admiration for the active role played by the people of Nicaragua in laying the foundations, principles and bases of the revolution under the command of the Sandinist National Front, in confronting the American imperialist plot and its agents and in overcoming the economic pressures and armed aggression of reactionary regimes. It stressed that the Great Fatih Revolution will always firmly stand along side the Nicaraguan popular revolution. The two sides agreed to maintain the solidarity of the two revolutions and continuously develop it until the will of their two friendly peoples triumphs against the enemies and imperialist plots and until the aims of the oppressed and struggling peoples for liberation and progress and for building a human society free from injustice and exploitation are realized.

On this occasion and within the framework of strengthening the relations of cooperation, solidarity and joint struggle, the two sides signed bilateral agreements in the spheres of economic, commercial, agricultural, scientific and cultural cooperation and on the continued exchange of visits at all levels.

Tomas Borge, member of the National Command of the Sandinist Front and minister of interior of Nicaragua, in the name of the command and the people of Nicaragua, extended an invitation to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Fatih Revolution, to visit Nicaragua. The brother leader has accepted the invitation, the date of which is to be fixed later.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO REAGAN

LD312226 Nouakchoot Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation has sent the following cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan after the attempt on his life yesterday in front of the Washington Hilton Hotel:

I learned with much distress the news of the assassination attempt on Your Excellency. In the name of the Mauritanian people, their Military Committee for National Salvation and the government, and in my own name, I express to you our sincere sympathy and wishes for recovery. Highest regards.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN SENDS MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO REAGAN

LD311408 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan has sent a telegram to American President Ronald Reagan, the text of which follows:

His Excellency the President and our great friend: We have learned with deep regret about the assassination attempt perpetrated by criminal hands against your person. While directed against you, this criminal act is in fact aimed at all high ideals for realization [word indistinct] which you are courageously working. All those who adhere to peace and justice cannot but denounce this horrendous attempt.

One can rightly regard this worldwide denunciation as the true expression of the sympathy and solidarity which you enjoy throughout the world. Rest reassured, Mr President, that world (?virtue) is on your side and that you will find in this support the righteous and just road guiding all those who assume the responsibility of leading their peoples towards a better and more prosperous future.

We cannot but address ourselves to almighty God, begging him to protect you and make of you the protector of justice and peace always. On the other hand we reaffirm to you our consideration and the feelings of the Moroccan people toward its fraternal [word indistinct] American people.

[Signed] Hassan II, king of Morocco

AL-'ALAM CONDEMNS CPSU STATEMENT ON ALGERIA VISIT

LD312358 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat 31 Mar (MAP)--On Tuesday the Moroccan daily AL-'ALAM sharply criticized the position expressed by a CPSU delegation during a recent visit to Algeria, deploring the fact that the Soviets allowed themselves to be dragged along "in the wake of the Algerian theory on the Saharan problem." The paper considers that the words of the joint communique of the CPSU and FLN constitute "an interference into Moroccan internal affairs," and something which is all the more serious since it encourages "the spilling of blood in the northwest African region" since, as AL-'ALAM stresses, "any support for the aggressor from any party such as the CPSU only encourages the aggressor more, and no one is unaware of the repercussions for peace and security in the world of this."

The CPSU, writes the paper, "which bases itself on documentation and studies and not on propaganda and (?lying) slogans, is perfectly aware of the reality" of the problems of northwest Africa. "Therefore, if it wanted to be fair it should have condemned the aggressors, deplored the guerrilla war which Algeria is waging against Morocco and called for peace and the safeguarding of Moroccan territorial integrity and the unity of the Moroccan people."

The paper affairms that this attitude only harms a quarter of a century of good Moroccan-Soviet relations and expresses the hope that this will not be repeated.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED ON EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, LIBYA

NC281136 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has emphasized that nobody can shake Sudan's relations with Egypt, saying that these relations enjoy the character of [words indistinct] and differ from all other relations because they are relations of a common history, one family and common destiny.

President Numayri referred to the common ancient history, the Nile River, family ties, common culture and religion and to the integration in all economic fields in addition to the joint security defending the country against any foreign aggression, which links Egypt and Sudan.

In an exclusive interview to be published by the Cairo OCTOBER magazine tomorrow, Sunday, the Sudanese president says that he is about to make a new move aimed at restoring Arab solidarity, particularly now that everybody has ascertained that Egypt's absence from the Arab arena is not a mere quantitative absence, represented in its human, economic, military and cultural potential, but that what is more serious is that this absence is one of the many causes of the present Arab and Islamic disintegration in the region.

President Numayri adds: What Egypt has achieved, for itself and the Arab nation, regardless of the means, is the liberation of Arab Egyptian land. It is impossible to demand that Egypt abandon this land in order that it may return to the Arab states or the Arab states may return to it. However, the Arab states, together with Egypt, can wrest what remains of the occupied territory and secure the rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their independent state.

President Numayri then asks: Wouldn't this be better than the Arab states leaving Egypt alone to confront the Israeli intransigence, and Egypt leaving the Arab states alone to face the welter of the Arab division?

Asked if the restoration of Egyptian-Sudanese relations has disturbed the clarity of Sudan's relations with some Arab states, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri denies this saying: What has taken place is in the interests of Sudan. When we study Sudan's interests, we always take into consideration the interests of the Arabs and of Africa.

Numayri adds: The reaction of the Arab states, except Libya, was wise and proper. The majority of the Arab states were convinced that Sudan and Egypt will never sever their relations. What has happened now is merely a normal measure to return the ambassadors to their places of work. President Numayri goes on: Some Arab states had long expected such a move. And some Arab capitals did not expect the move of a "diplomatic protest and withdrawal of ambassadors" except, of course, the madman of Libya, who tried to expel Sudan from the Arab League, whereas he should be the one to be expelled.

Regarding the future of Egyptian-Sudanese relations, President Numayri says that these relations must become stronger and closer in order to realize the cohesion of the forces in both countries to achieve the strategic goals of the two states--the realization of the political unity now that the popular unity has become an irrefutable fact. Sudan and Egypt constitute a considerable force in the Arab region as well as the Islamic region.

President Numayri further says: We must open our eyes and watch those who plot against us and against Arab unity and Islamic unity because the goal of the big strategies in the world is to weakn us as well as the Arab world and Islamic worlds. We must comprehend their strategic plan and work together to foil it.

President Numayri says that he speaks very frankly with the big states from the premise of Sudan's interests. He says his relations and stands are governed only by the interests of Sudan and its people, because he is a part of Sudan.

Numayri points out that when the Soviet ambassador in Khartoum visited him recently he explained to the ambassador the reality of Sudan's foreign policy, which is summed up in safeguarding Sudan's independence and protecting its territory and soil from the ambitions of the covetous and in noninterference in the affairs of others. Because Sudan refuses to interfere it insists that others should not interfere in its affairs. He also underlined to the Soviet ambassador the danger of the Libyan concentrations with regard to Sudan's internal security.

Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri demands that the Islamic states carry out their Islamic duty and mobilize all their resources to confront Al-Qadhdhafi. He points out that Al-Qadhdhafi is exploiting the Islamic states' resources against the Islamic religion saying: It is enough that he is distorting the teachings of the Islamic religion and of the Holy Koran. It is enough that he is now working toward the formation of an Islamic corps consisting of all citizens of the Islamic and Arab states living in his country to work against these states.

The Sudanese president adds: We have been very patient with this man, but there is a limit to patience; the cup has overflown and we must reveal his real nature. We will demand that the Islamic states carry out their role and confront this madman. We have had enough of the attitude of an observer, which has lasted too long.

In his interview with the OCTOBER magazine, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri swears that the madman of Libya does not know what kind of modern weapons there are in Libya, nor does he know how they are used and that no Libyan officer can use them.

President Numayri points out that he has asked for the dispatch of a group to go to Libya and Sudan to see and ascertain where the foreign military bases are and where the most sophisticated weapons are placed in these bases.

President Numayri expresses his belief that the stupidity of strength, no matter how big, could not tempt [Al-Qadhdhafi to carry out] a direct invasion of Sudan, saying: Al-Qadhdhafi fully realizes, and so do the Soviets, that Sudan is the homeland of a continent, and anybody who enters this continent must pay with his life as a price for the mere hope of leaving.

The Sudanese president says that the methods of the Russians and Al-Qadhdhafi are known. He adds: Despite this, they try to buy agents and train them in Libyan bases. Some 900 persons have returned after they refused the offer and after they were coerced in Libya.

President Numayri explains that the Libyan danger is in fact a mere illusion, but that the danger lies in the very sophisticated Soviet weapons which the Libyans cannot grasp. Citing an example, he says: Russians, non-Russians in the eastern bloc states and some of their allies in the Arab world participated in the plan to invade Chad; so far the victims are Libyan soldiers. There are dozens of Soviet experts in Ndjamena now. The present number is not important but what is more important is that they are a mere vanguard that could be followed by tens of thousands. as happened in Afghanistan, where there are 80,000 Soviet soldiers and 5,000 Soviet tanks.

In answer to a question about what has been published regarding the establishment of military bases in Sudan and the possibility of U.S. military facilities, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri says: In the course of a discussion about the Soviet dangers in the region and the Libyan concentrations, I was asked about the extent of Sudan's needs for aid. I answered: We can confront such a situation alone, provided that our defensive capabilities are bolstered. All we need now is an increase in equipment and further training of the soldiers. Sudan demands aid in the form of military facilities for the Sudanese Armed Forces. By these facilities, I mean bases and airbases for the Sudanese air force and bases and ports for Sudanese naval and other forces. All such facilities must be allocated to the Sudanese Armed Forces with the purpose of using them to defend Sudan. However, if Sudan were to be subjected to an aggression by a big state, then it is natural that we should seek the aid of our friends, who in this case can use any military facilities that are available for the defense of Sudan.

President Numayri expresses his belief that Sudan and Egypt can destroy any military invasion because of their military cooperation and joint defense.

Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri stresses that Sudan's firm policy is based on the rejection of a foreign military presence not only in Sudan, but also in all neighboring states, because a foreign military presence would necessarily result in a counter military presence. The region would then become a party in the international dispute which does not serve its aims for development and stability, particularly because the developing states do not have the ability or the desire to carry out aggressive actions against each other. A foreign presence alone tempts these states to commit an aggression on its behalf and in the service of its interests.

Regarding his proposal for holding a summit conference of the Nile basin states, President Numayri points out that he made this proposal at his meeting with the irrigation ministers of the Nile basin, who recently met in Sudan. He says: We must wait to give an opportunity to these states to study all aspects of the proposal.

He stresses that there are good reasons for holding the conference saying: It is the right of the states, which eat and drink from the same source, to think pragmatically of their common interests and reconsider their relations in a manner conforming with their economic, political, social and defensive interests. He explains that the aim of this is not the creation of an axis among these states against anyone else, because Sudan is against the policy of axes.

WESTERN SAHARA

PRIME MINISTER CONDEMNS U.S. AID TO MOROCCO

LD311724 Algiers APS in French 1300 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] SDAR (liberated territories), 31 Mar (APS)--Saharan Prime Minister Mohamed Lamine vigorously denounced U.S. support for Pretoria and Rabat in a declaration to APS.

"The U.S. is openly treating with Pretoria and supplies apartheid, a regime spurned by all, withthe most sophisticated armaments to continue its oppressive and colonial war against the Namibian people," Mr Lamine said.

He added: "In Western Sahara, the U.S. administation never stopped rekindling the fire, and freely and easily proclaims its support for the Moroccan regime, which it considers as a traditional friend, while innocent people are killed in Western Sahara by Moroccan troops.

The Saharan prime minister said: "The U.S. support, which proves Morocco's incapacity before our people's determination, will no more than strengthen the Saharan people's unshakable faith in their just cause and their will to continue the struggle until independence is achieved."

The American attitude, the Saharan prime minister said, "is not only a challenge to the American people--who had to fight colonialism--but above all a challenge to the sincere desire of the United Nations and (?OAU), who are working without pause to find a political solution to the Western Saharan problem. Paradoxically, the United States is trying to internationalize a decolonialization problem, and is thus taking on heavy responsibility for a flareup of the whole region, especially when it is known that one of the first consequences of the American military aid to Morocco was the March 16 attack on Mauritania."

"The United States must know that the military aid they are giving to Rabat will be fatal to it," Mohamed Lamine went on, stressing that "the Moroccan Army will not allow itself to be used for 20 years to satisfy the desires of the king, which, in the last analysis, are those of the colonialist forces."

CAMEROON

AHIDJO SENDS SYMPATHY MESSAGE TO U.S. PRESIDENT

AB311615 Paris AFP in French 1552 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Yaounde, 31 Mar (AFP)--It was with deep sorrow and great consternation that we learned of the attempt made on your illustrious life, said President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon in a message of sympathy addressed to the American President Ronald Reagan, who was victim of an assassination attempt on Monday.

COMMENTARY ON REAGAN'S ESCAPE FROM DEATH

AB011036 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] When a man narrowly escapes death, there are often three kinds of attitudes which the event is likely to attract, conditioned by the individual's own attitude toward other people. These reactions vary from euphoria, through indifference, to the wish that he had died. It is just too easy for anyone using the speculation on the African attitude toward Ronald Reagan's despising [words indistinct] of southern Africa to expect from us the last of the three reactions just mentioned. But that is one of those shocking cases where jumping at conclusions scares the best ones away.

Though we cried out against Ronald Reagan's policy, we did not mean that barely 2 months after leaving California for the White House, he should be on his way to Arlington. Even if Ronald Reagan is not a human rights type of person, we believe in his right to life; and even if he (?cushions) racism and injustice in South Africa and the destruction of life in Angola, there is no way we can (?cushion) an attempt to assassinate him or anyone else for that matter.

At a time when even governments, acting in the interest of everybody else, find it difficult to justify capital punishment, there is nothing more odious than an individual's unilateral decision to do away with somebody else's life. Meanwhile, happening to Reagan--who has not only fought against the control of firearms in his own country but has been asking Congress to permit him to (?extend) the same to terrorists elsewhere--one could argue that this was a good way of making him think [words indistinct].

Again, what ought to or ought not to have been is never as important as what has (?happened). Reagan is in bed with a hole in his lung, but he is safe [word indistinct] thanks to the efficiency of doctors, thanks to his God, if he has any. For it happens that under the threat of death or after death has given them a close shave, people tend to want to seek peace with their God and almost invariably to mend their ways with their fellows. May it be so with Ronald Reagan, whom we expect, upon recovery, to champion the control of arms in America and to understand what a mistake he was about to make sending them to Angola.

To Reagan, as to any human being under those circumstances, we send sympathy for the injuries together with congratulations for surviving. [Words indistinct] a Cameroonian proverb speaks more eloquently: A house should not burn even if it contains nothing good.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO LIFTS STATE OF SIEGE; ALERT CONTINUES

AB010924 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Bangui, 1 Apr (AFP)--Central African President David Dacko last night lifted the state of siege decreed on March 20 following bloody demonstrations against his victory in the March 15 presidential elections.

An official statement announcing the end of emergency regulations said that a curfew, imposed a day before the election results were announced, would be reduced by two hours, to be effective from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

However, the country was still considered to be in a state of alert, the statement said.

Four people were killed and more than 100 injured in violent clashes in the capital on March 20 when about 3,000 supporters of election runner-up Ange Patasse tried to march on the city centre. Earlier yesterday the university, considered one of the centres of anti-government feeling, was reopened following a 10-day closure.

GABON

BONGO DISMAYED BY NEWS OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

AB311913 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Message of sympathy from President Bongo to President Reagan issued in Libreville on 31 March]

[Text] I have learned with a very great emotion the news of the odious assassination attempt on your life yesterday. It is a revolting act that I condemn as deplorable for a country which is a model of democracy. I am all the most dismayed at the news as I was planning to meet you in the near future. I send you the most ardent wishes for a prompt recovery on behalf of the Gabonese people, the Gabonese Democratic Party, my government and on my own behalf. Highest regards. [Signed] El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU MESSAGE WISHES REAGAN PROMPT RECOVERY

AB311848 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Message of sympathy from President Mobutu Sese Seko to President Reagan issued in Kinshasa on 31 March]

[Text] Mr President, we have learned with great emotion the news of the assassination attempt which almost took your life. The Zairian people united within the MPR, my family and myself join all those who have already expressed to Your Excellency, your family and the friendly American people the feeling of sympathy and we send you our most sincere wishes for a prompt recovery. Highest regards. [Signed] Gen Mobutu Sese Seko, president of the republic and leader of the revolution.

GHANA

GHANAIANS SHOCKED, DISMAYED AT ATTEMPT ON REAGAN

AB311324 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Following the attempt on the life of the U.S. President, Mr Reagan, the president, Dr Limann, has sent him a message of speedy recovery. In the message President Limann said Ghanaians have learned with shock and dismay of the senseless attack on him and are relieved that his life has been spared. Other messages of concern and sympathy have been sent by many world leaders.

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ATTEMPT ON REAGAN

AB311610 Paris AFP in French 1429 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Abidjan, 31 March (AFP)--The Ivorian president, Mr Felix Houphouet-Boigny, on Tuesday sent a message to President Ronald Reagan, a message in which he expressed his deep concern over the attempt made on the life of the American head of state. In this message Mr Houphouet-Boigny says the Ivorian people and myself thank God for having spared your life and we express our fervent hope that you will have a speedy recovery to enable you to resume the great task you have been assigned to and which represents for freedom-loving nations the immense hope of seeing the Western world regain confidence in its destiny.

MALI

TRAORE'S SENDS SYMPATHY IN MESSAGE TO REAGAN

AB311613 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Message from President Moussa Traore to President Reagan]

[Text] We have learned with emotion of the attempt made on your life. We have been shocked by this odious act and are sure that the great American people will overcome this rude test. While wishing you a speedy recovery, Mr President, I pray you accept the profound sentiments of the Malian people, their party--the Democratic Union of Malian People--their government and my own sympathy. With highest regards.

[Signed] Gen Moussa Traore

COMMUNIQUE ON ALGERIA, MALI PRESIDENTS' MEETING

AB301208 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Joint communique issued at the end of the working session of the Algeria-Mali Joint Commission in Bamako, on 29 March--read by Mr Mohamed Ben Yahia, Algerian minister of foreign affairs]

[Text] The discussions between the two heads of state took place in a cordial atmosphere full of understanding, which reflects the privileged nature of the ties linking the people of Mali to the Algerian people. The two heads of state examined all activities likely to strengthen and increase the cooperation between the two countries. They exchanged views on the situation in Africa, the Middle East and in the rest of the world. Talking about bilateral relations, the two heads of state reiterated their firm commitment to intensify and strengthen their cooperation on the bases of complimentarity and solidarity, which are indispensible to the total achievement of the legitimate aspirations, happiness and progress of the two peoples.

In this context the two heads of state expressed satisfaction with the harmonious development of this cooperation as well as the results already achieved. They decided to give it a more important qualitative and quantitative content at the bilateral level as well as at the level of the conference of the Saharan states.

The two heads expressed much satisfaction with the results of the meeting of cadres of the National Liberation Front and the Democratic Union of Malian People in October 1980. They decided to do everything to implement the decisions contained in the cooperation accord between the two parties. In the application of the principle of intangibility of frontiers inherited with independence, the two heads of state asked for a resumption of the activities of the Mali-Algeria joint commission charged with the delimitation of the frontier between the two countries. They also decided to open an Algerian consular office at Gao and a Malian one at Tamanarafek.

Examining the situation in the region, the two heads stressed the importance they attribute to the establishing and developing of confident relations between brotherly states and neighbors. They also stressed the need to promote and consolidate peace and security, indispensable to the achieving of the objectives of development and progress of the people in the region.

They reaffirmed their adherence to the declaration of the conference of the Saharan states adopted in Bamako in March 1980 and asked for the strengthening of peaceful and friendly relations between all states.

They reiterated the adherence of their countries to the principles and ideals of the OAU Charter, and they decided to endlessly continue the struggle for the total liberation of the continent, and the emancipation of the African peoples.

Concerning the Western Saharan problem, the two heads of state stated their determination to work together to guarantee the right of self-determination and independence for the Saharan people, in order to restore peace and security in the region. In this regard they invite all the parties involved to scrupulously respect the recommendations of the ad hoc committee of the OAU heads of state, the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Nonaligned Movement. They expressed their utmost concern over the maneuvers of destabilization in the subregion, and they strongly condemned the aggressive activities carried out against the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on 16 March 1981.

On the situation in Chad the two heads of state expressed their belief in the Lagos accords and they reaffirmed their attachment to the restoration of a true and lasting peace which guarantees noninterference in the internal affairs of Chad, sovereignty, national unity and the country's territorial integrity.

Concerning South Africa the two leaders reiterated their total solidarity with and support for the people of South Africa in their legitimate struggle against oppression and the domination of the white minority regime in South Africa. They also reaffirmed that SWAPO is the only authentic representative of the people of Namibia. They give their unreserved support to the resolutions adopted by the ministerial conference of the Nonaligned countries in New Delhi and the 36th ordinary session of the OAU Ministerial Council. They ask for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, the convening of a special session of the UN General Assembly in order to take necessary measures on the latest developments of the situation in Namibia.

The presidents of the two countries condemned the recent aggressions of South Africa against the Angolan and Mozambican peoples. They renew their brotherly support for the frontline states in their efforts to put and end to the criminal aggressions of the racist regime in Pretoria and to come to the aid of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa.

Examining the prevailing situation in the Middle East, the two heads expressed concern over rising tension and its dangerous effects on the freedom of the people in the region as well as on world security and peace. Consequently, they condemned the Camp David accords and stressed that violation of the rights of the Palestinian people constitutes an attempt to perpetuate the Zionist occupation of Arab territories and it affects the interests of Arab nations. They renew their unwavering support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the guidance of its sole representative, the PLO. They note that the Middle East problem can only be solved with the restitution of all Arab territories including Jerusalem, and by the recognition and realization of the fundamental national rights of the Palestinian people.

Talking about the world economic situation, the two heads of state noted with satisfaction the sameness of their views on the need to restore a just and equitable new world economic order which satisfies the legitimate claims of the peoples of the Third World.

Concerning Arab-African cooperation, the two heads of state decided to make every effort to intensify it in order to respond to the needs of the African and Arab peoples.

They appreciated the results of this working visit, which shows the strong desire of the Malian and Algerian Governments to give new meaning to the fruitful cooperation existing between the two countries.

President Chadli Bendjedid, expressed his profound gratitude and sincere thanks to President Mouss? Traore for the warm and brotherly welcome given to his delegation and himself during their stay in Mali. President Chadli Bendjedid invited his brother and friend, President Moussa Traore, to pay a visit to Algeria. President Moussa Traore happily accepted this invitation, which will be formalized at a later date.

Signed in Bamako on 29 March 1981

NIGER

KOUNTCHE SENDS MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO REAGAN

AB311306 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Let us point out first of all that the chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, Col Seyni Kountche, this morning sent a message to the President of the United States, Mr Ronald Reagan, who has just been the victim of an assassination attempt. In his message the chairman of the Supreme Military Council says: I have just been informed by your embassy that you were victim of an assassination attempt yesterday afternoon. While congratulating you for escaping this attempt accept the expression of our greatest sympathy and wishes for a speedy recovery. Highest regards.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI EXPRESSES 'SHOCK' AT REAGAN SHOOTING

AB311401 Lagos International Service in English 1330 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria has sent a message to President Ronald Reagan of the United States of America. He said it has been a personal shock and a source of grief to him and to all Nigerians who have learned of the senseless and irresponsible attempt made yesterday on President Reagan's life during one of his numerous state functions aimed at improving the lot of the American workers. It is most unfortunate and disappointing that the great President of the United States, who has braced himself to better the lot of his people and that of humanity as a whole, should be a victim of such a mad act.

AUDU DENIES COUNTRY IN CONFRONTATION WITH LIBYA

AB281104 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu, has dismissed the impression that Nigeria was involved in direct confrontation with Libya. In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation in London, Professor Audu said that some neighboring countries to Chad tend to believe that Nigeria had a responsibility to keep Libya out of Chadian territory. He pointed out that this was because they were disturbed by the presence of Libyan troops. The minister explained that available evidence has shown that the majority of the people in Chad did not wish that any foreign troops remained in their territory perpetually. Professor Audu stated that, at present, Nigeria was the only country that was (?supplying) material support to the people of Chad. On the allegation that the Egyptian Government was supposed to be assisting rebel leader Hissein Habre, Professor Audu said that it was not to the knowledge of Nigeria that assistance was being given to rebel factions. He, however, explained that at the last meeting on Chad in Togo, it was agreed that all neighboring countries should desist from supporting breakaway groups or the factions that might want to give way to invade Chad.

SENEGAL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO REAGAN EXPRESSES SYMPATHY

AB311605 Paris AFP in French 1429 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 31 March (AFP)--Mr Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, said in a message of sympathy addressed on Tuesday to President Ronald Reagan that he had learned with shock of the attempt made on his life. The Senegalese head of state's message says in particular: God luckily wanted to save your life. While wishing you a speedy recovery, I renew the friendship of the Senegalese people for the American people.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS MESSAGE WISHES REAGAN 'SPEEDY RECOVERY'

AB011057 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] President Stevens said it was with profound shock and dismay that we learned of the attempt on Mr Reagan's life. On behalf of the government and people of Sierra Leone and on his personal account, he wished the American head of state sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

TOGO

PRESIDENT EYADEMA CONDEMNS ATTACK AGAINST REAGAN

AB011101 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] The founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT] and president of the republic, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, has sent the following message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Ronald Reagan: Your excellency, it is with dismay, deep emotion and total confusion that I have just learned of the criminal and odious attempt made on your august person. This criminal attempt constitutes a cowardly attack against freedom, justice [words indistinct]. In these dramatic circumstances, Mr President, all the Togolese people, their party, the RPT, their government and I myself pray to God for your quick recovery, so that you may continue to lead the United States on the path of justice, peace and liberty. Highest regards. Signed: Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RPT and president of the republic.

BOTSWANA

PRESIDENT SENDS SYMPATHY MESSAGE TO REAGAN

LD311354 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 31 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has sent a message of sympathy to the President of the United States, Mr Ronald Reagan, who has been shot and wounded in an attempt to assassinate him.

The message reads: Your Excellency, I have heard with shock of the violent attack on you and some members of your staff. My government and the people of Botswana (?as a whole) wish you a speedy recovery and pray that God will preserve and strengthen you to continue to shoulder the responsibilities of your high office at this crucial time in (?world affairs).

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN FISHING ZONE ANNOUNCED

LD311647 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] The South African Department of Economic Affairs has announced in Windhoek that a 320-km fishing zone will come into effect along the South-West African coast from tomorrow. The new zone will not affect the agreement for 1981 with the 16 members of the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries. The introduction of the zone has become necessary because of the serious depletion of fish resources along the South-West African coast.

MALAN URGES RACIAL HARMONY IN ARMED FORCES

LD272200 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] South African blacks and whites have to stand together to fight the forces of Marxism and communism which are trying to play blacks and whites against each other. This is the view of the minister of defense, Gen Magnus Malan. He said integration was not forced but it was necessary that black, brown and white joined forces against the danger, protecting all that was dear to the people of the country to ensure continued peaceful coexistence within the country's borders. In a statement issued in Cape Town, General Malan said people of particular backgrounds had particular talents. These talents supplemented one another to contribute to the security of all under conditions in the operational area. He said it was obvious that officers and other ranks of the defense force had to communicate and fight together as a team, defending one another under operational conditions. Therefore, they had to be trained and employed together for they were jointly and individually responsible for each other's safety.

General Malan said it was imperative that no offense be given to any cultural or color group in this defense team. He appealed for full cooperation in this effort for the preservation of the Christian and Western civilization.

ZAMBIA

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BENDJEDID PAYS STATE VISIT

LD311004 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Mar 81 CA

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid said in Lusaka today that it is the duty of all African states to support other Africans who are still fighting for their independence.

President Bendjedid said the African Continent has one destiny and added that independent Africans must show their solidarity with their brothers who are still fighting for their liberation. The Algerian leader, who arrived in Lusaka today for a 1-day state visit, said this at State House before holding official talks with President Kaunda. The Algerian president said all independent African countries have had experience of colonial occupation and racism and they are in a position to appreciate the suffering of the colonized people.

Earlier, Dr Kaunda noted with gratitude that Algeria and Zambia have a very common stand on all major international issues, including those of the Western Sahara, the Middle East and southern Africa. Dr Kaunda described his guest as a man who has dedicated his life to the cause of man and peace not only in Algeria but elsewhere in the world.

Kaunda Dinner Address

LD311026 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] President Kaunda has taken advantage of the visit by the Algerian head of state, Mr Chadli Bendjedid, to once again issue an impassioned appeal to the Western contact group of five to exert pressure on South Africa over Namibia to avert an impending bloodbath. Speaking at a state dinner he hosted for President Bendjedid at the Hotel Intercontinental last night, Dr Kaunda said the continued intransigence of South Africa over the Namibian independence dispute is a source of great worry and pleaded with the Western group of five to exert pressure on the regime. The president said there is urgent need for another Geneva type of conference to resolve the Namibian issue, because South Africa has clearly decided to ignore the United Nations plan, which is basically the brainchild of the contact group of five. President Kaunda added that since the abortive meeting in Geneva the whole security situation in southern Africa has become tense and volatile and encouraged by the alarming signals from Washington lately. [sentence as heard]

Bendjedid Dinner Address

LD311028 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 81 CA

[Text] Algerian President Mr Chadli Bendjedid has said that big-power maneuvers aimed at perpetuating oppression in certain parts of southern Africa must be fought off by the Organization of African Unity, OAU.

Mr Bendjedid, who was speaking at a state dinner held for him by President Kaunda at the Hotel Intercontinental last night, said the continent was still suffering from the effects of colonialism in some parts and called for economic cooperation among OAU members as the surest way of combatting this. He said his visit to Zambia would afford his country an exchange of views with Zambia with a view to finding solutions to the problems of people still under the colonial yoke, adding that people's aspirations for peace could not be achieved until they achieved political independence.

Mr Bendjedid, who leaves the country this morning after holding talks with President Kaunda, said his visit would serve to strengthen the already existing warm relationship between the two countries.

Joint Communique

LD010506 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, this morning ended his visit to the Republic of Zambia. A joint communique was issued.

In the communique the two sides said that they had reviewed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the excellent quality of these relations. They renewed their joint resolve to give these relations the dimension and weight desired by their two peoples.

The two sides placed on record the great opportunities which exist for developing economic and cultural cooperation between Algeria and Zambia. They decided to take all possible steps to expand and intensify bilateral cooperation in all fields, particularly in trade, industry and agriculture.

The two presidents reviewed the international situation and noted with deep concern its escalation toward tension and confrontation, saying that this tends to increase the threat to world peace. They affirmed their opposition to the political and economic pressures applied by the imperialists in order to stifle the aspirations of the peoples for true independence and international cooperation based on justice, equality and mutual interest.

The two presidents paid special attention to the situation in Africa and reaffirmed their belief in African unity and their commitment to support the OAU and help it carry out the sacred task stipulated in its charter, particularly the complete liberation of the continent.

The two presidents praised the sacrifices of the peoples who are struggling and reaffirmed their complete and absolute solidarity with them. In this connection, they renewed their support for the struggle of SWAPO. They called on all countries to step up their aid to that organization.

The two sides saluted the heroic struggle of the Saharan people under the leadership of the Polisario. They affirmed the need for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario.

In regard to the Middle East, the two sides noted the increased tension in this area and affirmed that a genuine solution is not possible unless the PLO is represented in any steps that might be taken toward peace. The two sides condemned the Camp David agreements and the annexation of Jerusalem and called on all states to reject them.

USSR CALLS FOR 'COMMON FRONT' WITH ZAMBIA

LD301000 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 28 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Soviet Union has called for the establishment of a common front with Zambia to fight oppression in Namibia and South Africa. First Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Republic [title as heard] Mr Vasiliy Kuznetsov declared that the Soviet Union will continue to render its all-round support to SWAPO of Namibia and the African National Congress of South Africa for the independence and freedom of their people.

Mr Kuznetsov made the assurance when he accepted credentials from Zambia's new ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr Joshua Siyolwe. He said the Soviet Union admires and supports the Zambian people under the leadership of President Kaunda for their policies and their contribution to the liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and their continued support for the oppressed people of Namibia and South Africa.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE SPEAKS ON U.S.-RSA, SANCTIONS ISSUES

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[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, says he hopes the United States will not cement ties with South Africa and promised to work at making the American administration aware of the dangers of apartheid. At a news conference today Comrade Mugabe conceded that Zimbabwe will not be able to implement sanctions against racist South Africa because of its geographical and economic position. He explained: This is not to say we are against the international community imposing sanctions against South Africa. We voted for those sanctions at the United Nations because we had to be seen to be giving support to the efforts of the OAU. However, we did explain that when it comes to the actual implementation of sanctions Zimbabwe would not be able to involve itself.

The prime minister said he hopes President Reagan's administration will be deterred from moving closer to South Africa by America's commitment to democracy and the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Commenting on this week's Zimbabwe Conference on Reconcstruction and Development [ZIMCORD], Comrade Mugabe said that while the government is overwhelmed with the response, he thought the British contribution is insufficient and inadequate. He referred particularly to the pledge of 10 million pounds for the purchase of land to resettle peasants living in overcrowded black rural areas. Comrade Mugabe said: We are grateful to Britain for pledging this additional amount but I am afraid it falls far short of our expectations. He said Zimbabwe's economic success at the ZIMCORD conference is matched by equal if not greater successes in the political and military fields. The prime minister told the newsmen that in fact the conference had succeeded because of the government's political achievement in uniting the people of the country. He said it is Zimbabwe's nonaligned stance which had made it possible for both the East and West blocs, no matter what their ideological commitments, to give support and help.

Militarily, Comrade Mugabe said he expects the total integration of guerrillas into the national army to be complete in 3 or 4 months. Only two camps housing several thousand former guerrillas have yet to be disarmed and the exercise is underway. The prime minister added that he is confident that by June or July the political forces will have gone and one allegiance will be made to the state of Zimbabwe by the national army. He concluded: These are successes equal to if not greater than ZIMCORD and on their basis the conference has achieved the success you [as heard] are talking about.

The prime minister said foreign investors have nothing to fear in Zimbabwe. Promising a future statement which will encourage people to take the plunge and invest in this country, Comrade Mugabe told newsmen today that foreign companies investing in Zimbabwe have very great latitude. He said their dividends and profits can be remitted abroad and the government only asks that they employ as many Zimbabweans as possible and desires that the greater part of the profits and dividends be reinvested in this country. However, Comrade Mugabe said, this is not a strict rule by the government. The prime minister added: There is nothing really that foreign companies should be afraid of.

He will in due course be making further clarification of the position and enable those who are sitting on the fence at the moment to take the plunge and invest.